

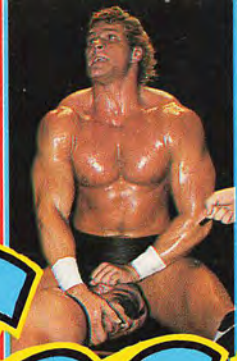
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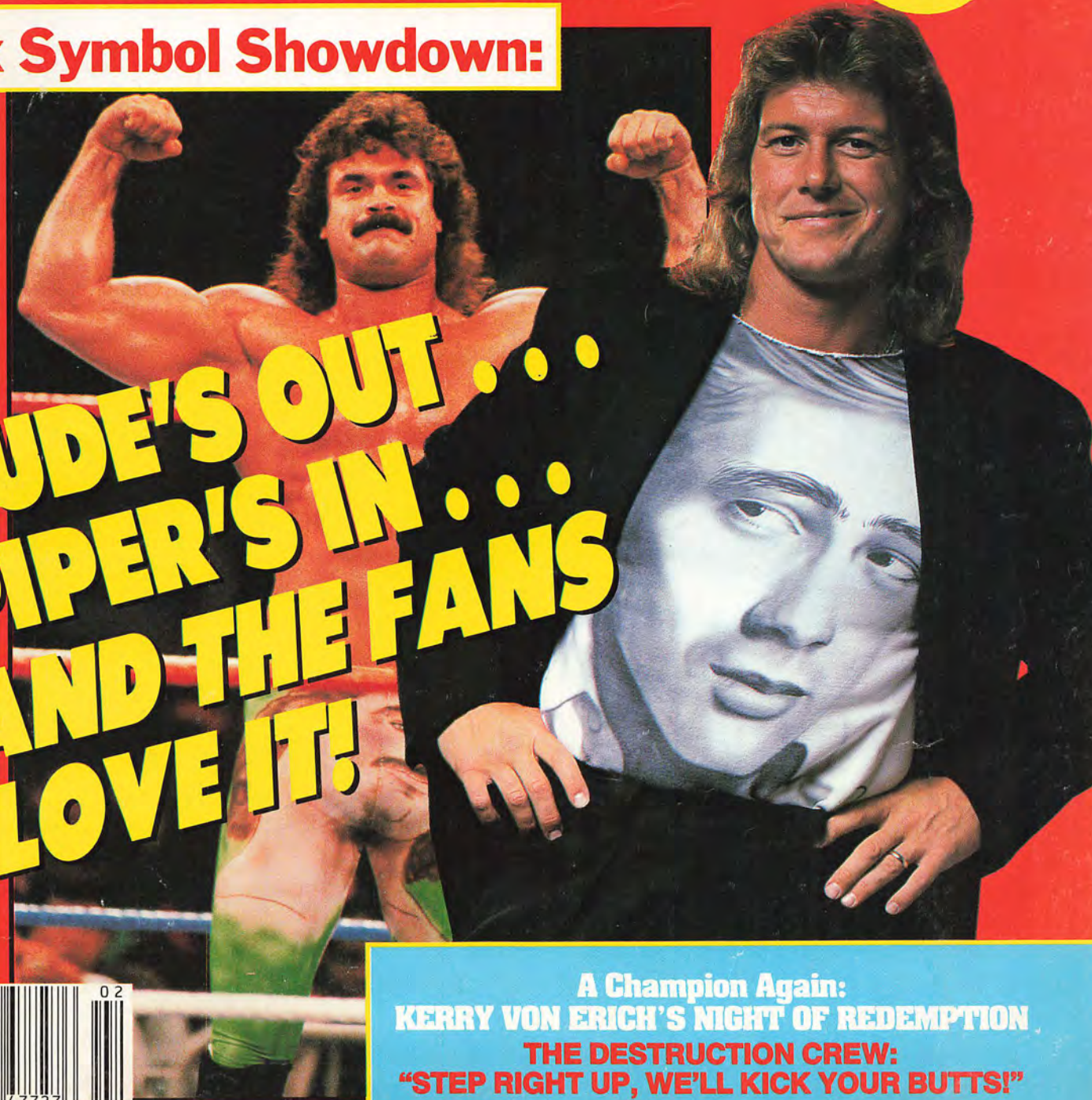


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PIPER'S IN...  
AND THE FANS  
LOVE IT!**



**A Champion Again:  
KERRY VON ERICH'S NIGHT OF REDEMPTION**  
**THE DESTRUCTION CREW:  
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INSIDE

# Wrestling

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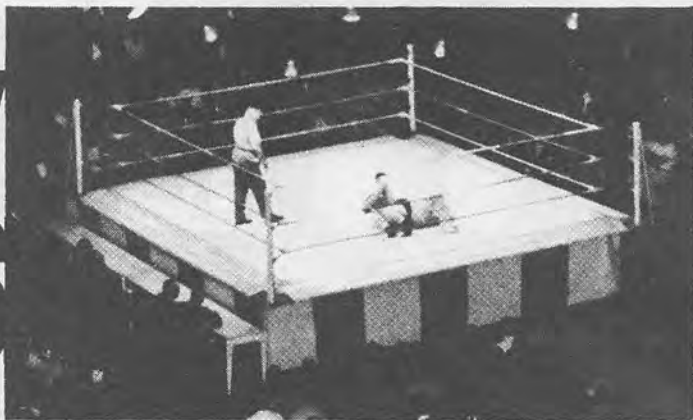
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# SINCERELY YOURS

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## FLAIR'S CHANGE

I can't say I totally blame you guys for having reservations about Ric Flair's conversion from rulebreaker to fan favorite ("Don't Be Deceived, World: Ric Flair Is Wrestling's Greatest Con Artist," December 1989). I do

feel that *Inside Wrestling* and its sister publications are uncomfortable with Flair's standing as a fan favorite and are anxious for him to do something to damage that standing.

I am happy to see Flair's name off the most hated list, because I never

believed he belonged there. I could name at least 20 wrestlers who have behaved more despicably than Flair. You know, it's not easy being a world champion in pro wrestling, especially in the NWA. Flair is getting older while his challengers are getting younger, faster, and more talented than ever before.

In any case, I don't feel Ric will turn against Sting as part of some devious plot. I hope Flair returns to his old way of defending the title against both rulebreakers and fan favorites. He's already shown signs of this by wrestling Brad Armstrong, Eddie Gilbert, Terry Funk, and Wild Bill Irwin. Ric Flair is on the right track. More power to him!

CURTIS BELLAMY  
Fairfield, CA

At this point, most fans have seen enough of Ric Flair to know that he can change at any time. Is this the real Flair or merely a con job? The trick is to just go with the flow and be ready for anything. Maybe Flair will change, maybe he won't. Just don't be surprised if one day, J.J. Dillon is back at ringside and Flair is up to his old tricks.

ROSCOE BUTITIS  
Pittsfield, MA

If you're a fan of Flair, it doesn't matter whether he's a rulebreaker or fan favorite. Flair's style of wrestling

---

Ric Flair piledrives Terry Funk. Flair is also willing to wrestle scientific wrestlers, and reader Curtis Bellamy respects that.





hasn't changed. He's still one of the greatest scientific wrestlers the sport has ever seen, still has that great endurance, and still can withstand the toughest men in the sport. You can't tell me that when the going gets tough in a match, Flair is wondering about whether he's being cheered or booed. Championship matches come down to instinct, and instinct doesn't change.

LISA CARVER  
Savannah, GA

## GOODBYE, ANDRE

Andy Abrahamson thinks Andre the Giant should stick around ("Sincerely Yours," December 1989). My God, Andy, are you saying he should keep going until he is permanently injured? He is one of the biggest rulebreaking cheaters there is. He moves around like a three-legged elephant on hot coals. He's yellow, too. Lately, when have you ever seen him meet a man face-to-face? He won't. He won't do *anything* until their back is turned, then he goes and chokes them.

Andre, get lost!

RAY POWERS  
S. New Berlin, NY

## TEXAS WINS!

As far as P.Y. Chu-Hi, Tojo Yamamoto, and Gen. Skandor Akbar are concerned, the battle for Texas is over ("Embry Beats P.Y. Chu Hi . . . But The Battle For Texas Has Just Begun!" December 1989), and they're the losers! Eric Embry has put Texas wrestling back in safe hands, and that's where it's going to stay.

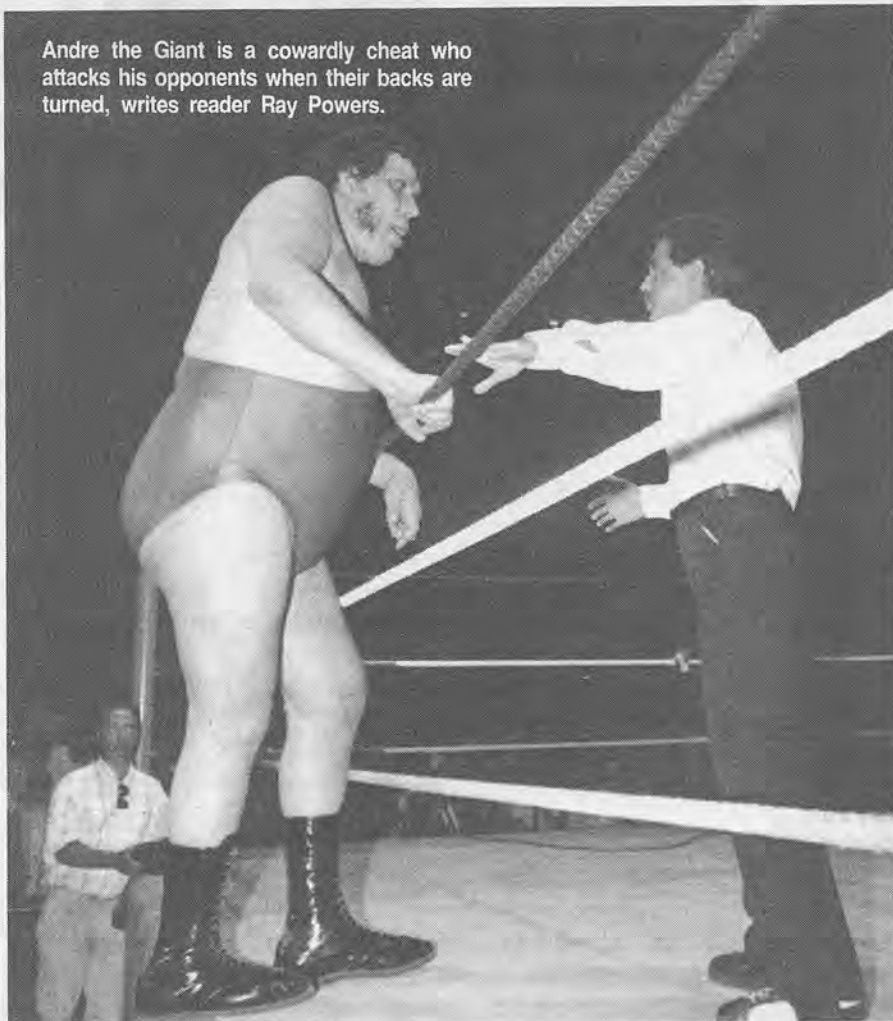
Let's face it, between Embry and Kerry Von Erich, the fans know that the USWA is in good hands. Lately, Chu-Hi and the gang have taken to going after a woman, but even Toni Adams is too much for them to handle. In fact, she's probably too much for any man to handle.

Give it up, boys! Texas still belongs to the fans!

LARRY CURTIS  
Galveston, TX

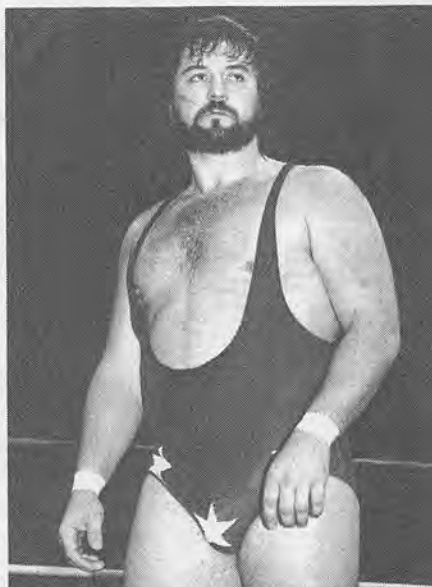
Akbar will never give up. Now he has Yamamoto, Chu-Hi, Travis, and Young on his side. When they fail,

Andre the Giant is a cowardly cheat who attacks his opponents when their backs are turned, writes reader Ray Powers.



there'll be someone else. The battle for Texas started years ago, and it's never going to end until somebody gets rid of Akbar.

PAUL WHEELDON  
Arkadelphia, AK



Eric Embry has won the battle for Texas, writes Larry Curtis. Another reader, Paul Wheelton, thinks the war is far from over.

In the story about the USWA in the December issue, Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks writes, "Some of the most beautiful women in the U.S. are Texans." That has to be one of the most ridiculous generalizations I've ever read. There are beautiful women in every city, big and small, and Texas is no different from the rest.

Perhaps the problem is that Texas men are so backward and sexist that they only concentrate on what women look like, not what they have inside, so we only hear about how beautiful the women of Texas are. According to Saks, Texas is the land of Barbie dolls. Well, I'm no plastic object.

ANN OWENS  
Dallas

## ROLLERGAMES

I would like to thank Craig Peters for his kind words about RollerGames and *RollerGames Magazine* in his recent column ("On The Road," December 1989).  
(Continued on page 48)



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu  
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

Four years ago, women's wrestling experienced a renaissance. Today it's back in the dark ages.

Ironically, the only woman that's really doing anything in any major federation is Wendi Richter, the reigning AWA, WWC, and NWF champion. It was Richter who led the resurgence of women's wrestling in the mid-'80s, when she was trained by rock star Cyndi Lauper for her feud against the legendary Fabulous Moolah. At that time, the fan support afforded Richter was just a notch below that given to a pretty popular gent named Hulk Hogan.

Unfortunately, the sport's promoters viewed that period in wrestling history as an aberration. As popular as women's wrestling had become, as soon as that interest waned a little, they seemed to give up. To some extent, they were justified in that pessimistic view. Women's wrestling would probably never again receive the publicity it did during the rock 'n' wrestling wars. But, with the support of the major federations, it could certainly do better than it's doing now.

The AWA is doing what it can with Richter and WWF champ Rockin' Robin is an MIA somewhere in Europe. How about the NWA? The last woman the world's oldest federation recognized was Misty Blue, but only as U.S. champion—and very briefly. If the NWA could entice some athletic younger woman (not the dinosaurs from the '70s) to enter a world title tournament, I believe there would be a great deal of interest. And, if promoted properly, the title could bring back some of the excitement women's wrestling generated for all-too-short a period of time.

I'd be interested to find out what you think. Drop me a line here at Editor's Notebook, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. I'll pass the results on to the NWA officials.



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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David  
Rosenbaum**

**"H**OLY COW! THE cage is on fire!" The words were barely out of a fan's mouth when Tommy Young rushed into the ring area, climbed the cage, and started putting out the fire. With his bare hands!

It happened on Saturday night, October 28, in the Philadelphia Civic Center, just before the start of the Thunderdome electric cage match pitting Sting and Ric Flair against The Great Muta and Terry Funk. The cage, an awesome 30' x 30' structure, was being lowered from the Civic Center ceiling when a piece of fabric on the top corner of the cage brushed against the red-hot arena lights and caught fire.

"I was hanging around the ring-side area just shooting the breeze and getting ready to watch the match, but I wasn't really paying attention to what was going on in the ring," Young recalled. "Suddenly, I heard this fan yelling, and then I looked up at the cage. My face must have gone totally white, but I knew what to do. I knew that if somebody didn't act quickly, the fire would spread and lives would be in danger.

"From that point on, I just acted on instinct," Young continued. "It was just a matter of getting to the ring, seeing how bad the fire was, and putting it out. As it turned out, the fire wasn't really that bad, but because the top of the cage was electrified, we had to make sure it didn't spread or else there really could have been a major electrical problem.

"The only thing I regret," Young added, surveying the burn marks on both hands, "is that I didn't bring a fire extinguisher, or at least a wet towel, with me. But, you know, I didn't feel my hands

*(Continued on page 50)*

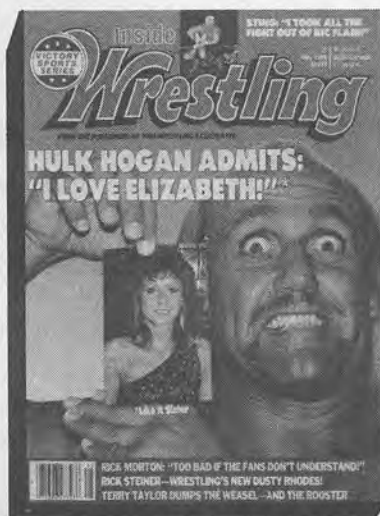


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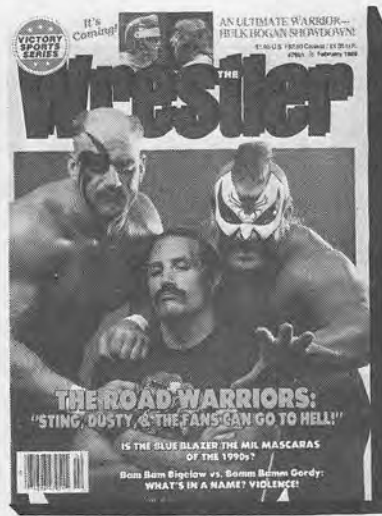
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**A**S THE SPORT OF wrestling looks ahead to the decade of the 1990s, I fear it is in troubled shape.

I'm not talking about the health of independent organizations, or the tendencies of the WWF and the NWA to monopolize the sport's best talent, or the fact that the AWA is constantly embroiled in title controversy after title controversy (as, it seems, they've done for most of the 1980s).

Neither am I talking about the soaring cost of bringing a family to the matches, the always-troubling tendency of major stars to not show up at relatively minor cards, or the degeneration of the spirit of the sport in favor of merchandising, marketing, and the almighty dollar.

Worrisome trends, all.

What I *am* talking about is the gradual but definite descent of the sport into a swamp of abject, pure, utter, and senseless violence.



Terry Funk vs. Ric Flair

when:

● It takes an incredibly expensive high-tech *electrified* steel cage to settle a feud among four men (thankfully—*thankfully!*—the biggest injury at the NWA's "Halloween



Toni Adams

Havoc" main event was a cut on Terry Funk's hand; it could have been far more worse, and possibly tragic).

● A 302-pound "American Made" hero of America's youth makes a habit out of pummeling a woman from pillar to post in arenas all across the country.

● A wrestler's wife is drawn into the ring to do battle

## ON THE ROAD

with  
CRAIG PETERS

against some of the most vicious and sadistic men in Texas.

I could go on for a few pages with examples like this, but you get the idea.

Fans around the world were angered by last year's controversial Great American Bash decision in Baltimore, when a match between Lex Luger and Ric Flair was stopped because of a small cut on Luger's head. At the time, I was angry, too.

But the more I think about it, the more I feel it was the right decision.

Matches ought to be won and lost on

the basis of skills and guts, not on the basis of how much raw physical damage you can do to your opponent.

And when things *do* get out of hand, as they frequently do in a sport where emotions so often dictate actions, then it's up to the sanctioning bodies of the various federations to take charge:

● The NWA should never have allowed Terry Funk back in the ring after the incident involving the plastic bag.

● The WWF should strip Hulk Hogan of the WWF World title for hitting a woman (is this the kind of example the federation wants to set for kids?).

● The USWA should not allow Toni Adams to step into the ring, albeit armed with a blatantly illegal weapon (a kendo stick), and wage war against much larger, more vicious opponents.

Wrestling has enjoyed well over eight decades of excellence based on a simple concept: one-on-one battle between men armed with nothing but their wits and athletic abilities.

When sticks and chains replace skills and smarts, the sport is in serious trouble, indeed. I hope the 1990s will see a reversal of this trend.

I fear they won't.

\*\*\*

A quick note about a very sad situation. Former CWA star Jerry Bryant is dying of Lou Gehrig's disease. If you haven't already picked up a copy of our sister publication *The Wrestler*, do so and check out Bob Smith's "Blindsided" column, which deals with the Bryant situation in depth; it's required reading.

Meanwhile, I'd like to echo the appeal Bob makes at the end of his column:

At press time, the family was praying that Jerry would survive through Christmas. Our support can help make the holidays a bit brighter for this family devastated by hospital bills. Make a contribution—please. Mail it to: The Jerry Bryant Fund, P.O. Box 34428, 6767 Summer Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38134. If we all sent just one dollar, the holidays would be very special indeed for Jerry and his family. □



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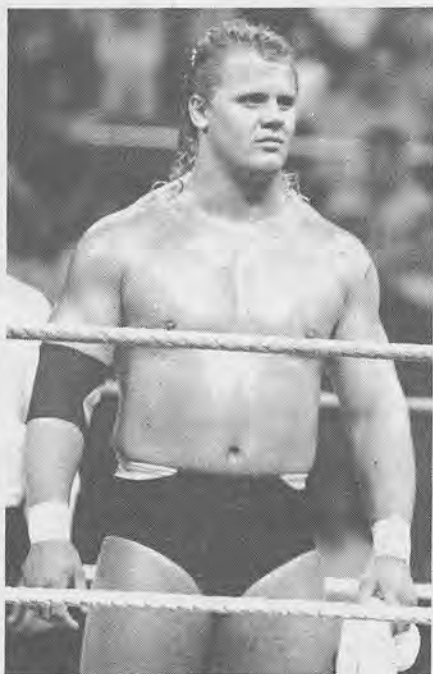
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# NAMES MAKI

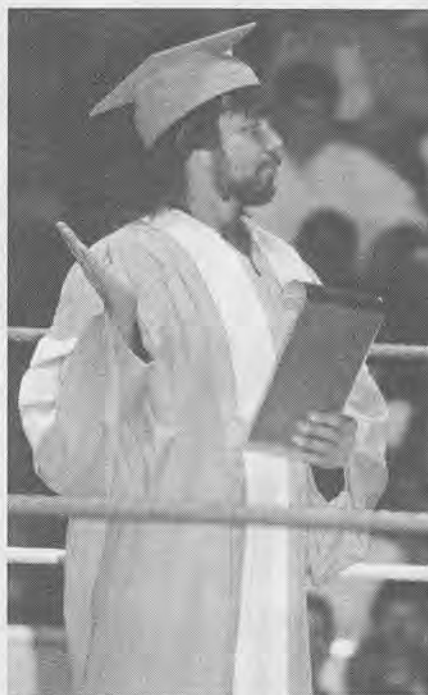
**CURT HENNIG** HAS arrived! The former AWA World champion, having retained his perfect record in the WWF despite a testing schedule, signed for a series of matches against WWF World champ **Hulk Hogan**. Their first meeting was scheduled for mid-November in Montreal, with additional matches penned in for December in Uniondale, New York, Hamilton, Ontario, and Montreal again.



**CURT HENNIG**

That's bad news for former World champion **Randy Savage**, who is sinking fast in the WWF ratings. Savage has faltered under the management of **Sensational Sherri**, and appears to be more concerned with defending his "crown" against **Hacksaw Duggan**. The "Macho King" was destroyed by Hogan in recent matches and badly needs to turn his career around.

Hennig, meanwhile, is the hottest wrestler in the WWF. His record was bolstered by impressive victories over **Brutus Beefcake** and **Jimmy "Sup-**



**LANNY POFFO**

**erfly" Snuka**, and he figures to benefit from the ring savvy of adviser **Lanny Poffo, The Genius**.

"The Hulkster" has added incentive for this series. It was Hennig, along with Poffo, who smashed and destroyed the WWF belt after Hulk lost by countout to Poffo due to Hennig's interference during a taping of *Saturday Night's Main Event* in Topeka, Kansas.

In other WWF news, **Raymond Rougeau** plans to retire in December. **Gino Brito**, who promotes WWF events in Quebec, told the *Montreal Journal* that Raymond informed the WWF he was leaving to spend more time with his wife, who is pregnant with their first child. Rougeau, 33, a 17-year veteran who formed an extremely successful—though unpopular—tag team with his brother, **Jacques Rougeau**, could not be reached for comment. At press time, Jacques' future plans were unclear.

Japan is in the news. New Japan Wrestling is hoping to sign a landmark

event for December 30: a card in Moscow. To the best of my knowledge, this would be the first professional wrestling card in the Soviet Union promoted by a country outside of the Soviet bloc . . . **The Nasty Boys** are headed to Japan and hope to challenge All-Japan tag team champs **Genichiro Tenryu** and **Stan Hansen** . . . **Buzz Sawyer** is the newest member of **Gary Hart's** J-TeX (Japan-Texas) Corp. The other members are **Terry Funk**, **The Great Muta**, and **Mr. J.** . . . Finally, some sad news that could have been sadder. Japanese wrestling legend **Antonio Inoki** was attacked by a knife-wielding man while making a speech on October 21 in Fukushima, Japan. Inoki, recently elected to Japan's House of Councilors, was rushed to a hospital and treated for a head injury.



**JERRY LAWLER**

**Jerry Lawler** is trapped in a rather large controversy regarding the USWA title. On October 23 in Memphis, Lawler appeared to have lost his USWA title to the lightly regarded **Soultaker** in a lumberjack match. But the match was marred by a fight between the lumberjacks, as well as **Nate the Rat** and **Dutch Mantel's** interference.



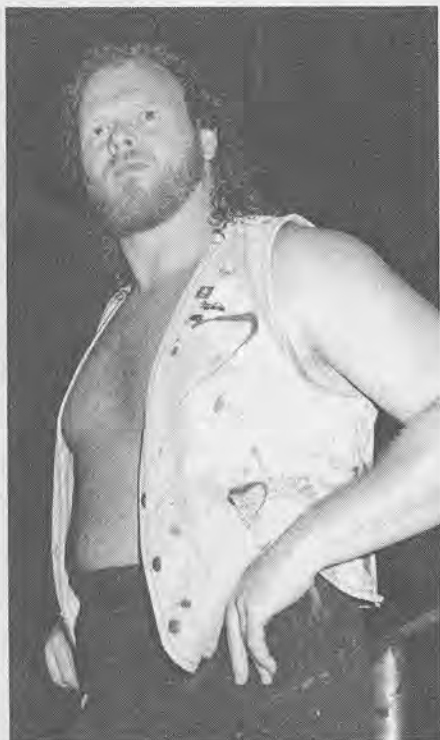
# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

Soultaker won when Mantel mistakenly struck Lawler, but USWA and CWA officials immediately ordered a review of the match.

The title—but not the belt—was finally returned to Lawler, and Soultaker continued to “defend” the belt. The USWA—as well as *Inside Wrestling* and its sister publications—will continue to recognize Lawler as USWA champion. Meanwhile, Lawler and Mantel are at odds. A week after the controversial match, Lawler instructed Mantel not to interfere in his match against Soultaker. But Mantel *did* interfere when referee **Frank Morell** was knocked out and Nate the Rat and **Dirty White Boy** attacked Lawler. When Morell woke up, Mantel was the only man left in the ring, and Lawler was disqualified for outside interference.

Lawler was clearly in danger of being seriously injured when White Boy and Nate entered the ring. Nonetheless, he



DIRTY WHITE BOY

is enraged at Mantel, who claims that he couldn't stand to see Lawler get beaten so badly.

**Brickhouse Brown**, the latest arrival in the CWF, is hoping to change his ways and become a fan favorite. But **Robert Fuller**, leader of the **Stud Stable**, has other ideas. He has offered Brown a large amount of cash to join the Stud Stable... **Ron Starr** is also wrestling in the CWF and his goal is sidelining **Cactus Jack**. “This feud's been going on for too long,” Starr said. “He keeps on running away and I keep on chasing him, but it's gonna end right here.” The feud started several years ago in Texas when Jack allegedly injured Starr's younger brother... When **The Fantastics**, **Bobby and Jackie Fulton** wrestled **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** on a recent Heritage Championship Wrestling card, The Fantastics hid vacuum cleaners under the ring, which they later used. I guess they have their own idea of what clean wrestling is all about.

At press time, AWA fans were eagerly awaiting a battle between World champion **Larry Zbyszko** and former NWA U.S. champ **Nikita Koloff**. This figures to be the toughest test yet to Zbyszko's reign: Koloff, at his best, is one of the finest athletes in the sport. And although Zbyszko usually finds a way out of trouble, a prolonged feud with Koloff could mean the end of his reign. Zbyszko held off a determined challenge to his title in late October when he defeated **David Sammartino** in New Jersey. Sammartino dominated the match, but Zbyszko came back and put his feet on the ropes to score the pin.

**Kevin Von Erich** returned to the ring in late October and teamed with his brother, **Kerry Von Erich**, to defeat **The Punisher** and **Taras**



KEVIN VON ERICH

**Bulba**. Kerry pinned Bulba for the win. A week earlier, Kerry pinned The Punisher to win the USWA Texas title... The WWF's third annual Royal Rumble is scheduled for January 21 in Orlando, Florida. The event will be aired live on national pay-per-view TV... **Owen Hart** and **Johnny Smith** are back in the Stampede Wrestling Federation.

**Brian Pillman** was touted as the likely successor to **Lex Luger's** U.S. title, but it now looks as if Luger has no plans to step aside. Luger scored a clean pin over Pillman at “Halloween Havoc,” and was a heavy favorite to turn aside Pillman once again at the November 15 “New York Knockouts” card in Troy, New York. “Pillman's not my problem,” Luger said. “My goal is Flair, and until I get him, anybody I wrestle's gonna be in big trouble.” Maybe Pillman tried to rush his assault on the title. It could be time for Flyin' Brian to take a step backward—for the good of his career.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □

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<b>BONNIE RAITT</b> 381-087 <i>NICK OF TIME</i> <small>CAPITOL</small>	<b>BARBRA STREISAND</b> 374-884 <i>Till I Loved You</i> <small>COLUMBIA</small>
<b>ARETHA FRANKLIN</b> 380-873 <i>Through The Storm</i> <small>ARISTA</small>	<b>ANTHRAX</b> 374-264 <i>State Of Euphoria</i> <small>(BURNING BRIDGE WY)</small>
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<b>MICHAEL DAMIAN</b> 384-305 Where Do We Go From Here [OFFSHORE]	<b>RAMONES</b> 383-828 BRAIN DRAIN [J&R]	<b>THE GODFATHERS</b> 380-345 More Songs About Love And Hate [EPIC]	
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<b>BOB DYLAN &amp; GRAZELDE</b> 378-117 Dylan And The Dead [COLUMBIA]	<b>WOODSTOCK II</b> 1382-143 Original Soundtrack [ATLANTIC]	<b>EVERLY BROTHERS</b> 372-121 The Very Best [CAPITOL/SYGMA]	<b>BUDDY HOLLY</b> 1348-110 Orig. Master Tapes [MCA]	<b>CHICAGO</b> 312-314 Greatest Hits, Vol. II [COLUMBIA]	<b>GUNS N' ROSES</b> 359-984 Appetite For Destruction [OFFSHORE]
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<b>METALLICA</b> 1372-805 And Justice For All [ELECTRA]	<b>GRATEFUL DEAD</b> 378-406 Skeletons From The Closet [WARNER BROS.]	<b>JANIS JOPLIN</b> 355-008 CHEAP THRILLS [COLUMBIA]	<b>BAD COMPANY</b> 341-313 10 FROM 6 [ATLANTIC]	<b>LINDA RONSTADT'S</b> 286-740 GREATEST HITS [ATLANTIC]	<b>U2</b> 354-449 The Joshua Tree [ISLAND]
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THE

# INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]*

## News Item: Vroom. I Went To A Wrestling Match And A Car Race Broke Out.

The big sports news out of Texas was not that the Cowboys might never win another football game or that Nolan Ryan agreed to hurl fireballs for another season. It involved Kerry Von Erich, though it had precious little to do with wrestling—and absolutely nothing to do with Von Erich's Texas title victory over the Punisher.

Vrrooom! Vrrooom! Vrrooom! "WrestleWreck" is a great name for a Texas-style battle royal. Make a soup of Chris Adams, Von Erich, The Punisher, Taras Bulba, Jimmy Jack Funk, Eric Embry, and so on, and you're guaranteed a thunderous, volcanic, violent—if not particularly pretty—brawlathon.

It's just an idea—an idea the USWA decided to pass on in favor of—read carefully—a *demolition derby*.

A ratings smash, no doubt, but one that leaves a sour taste in the mouths of true wrestling fans already reeling from a season of gimmicky grappling. The derby took place at Mesquite's Devil's Bowl Speedway and featured most of the USWA grapplers—several reportedly driving with



Kerry Von Erich climbs into his car for the "WrestleWreck" demolition derby in which all the participants were wrestlers. Kerry won the event, held after a recent card in Texas.

suspended licenses (and thinking with suspended brains). Apparently, the cathartic thrill of bashing each other's cars in was not enough for some grapplers. After Eric Embry and Billy Travis leapt from their cars and traded haymakers, the whole derby degenerated into a brawl. Crazy, huh? Wrestlers fighting each other. Who'da thunk somethin' like that'd happen?

On hand for "The Insider" was wrestling correspondent and demo derby aficionado "Slick" Sheldon Kawer, who refused even to file a report on the debacle.

Most wrestlers appeared embarrassed by the whole ridiculous affair. Not Kerry Von Erich, the derby winner. "Heck, I'll take 'em [victories] any way I can get 'em," Von Erich guffawed. "I'm no expert on demolition derby, but I knew what I had to do. I just started banging into Gary Young's car as hard as I could, until finally mine was the only car running."

A brilliant piece of strategy, A.J., er, Kerry.

News Item: Jimmy Snuka Selected To Roddy Piper's Survi-

(Continued on page 52)



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**June 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Nick Bockwinkel, Adonis & Ventura, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

**August 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Dino Bravo, Steamboat & Rich, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blasse.

**January 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ken Patera, Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

**February 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

**April 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

**June 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Cowboy Bob Orton, Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

**July 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

**August 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Larry Zbyszko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

**October 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog, Tommy Rich, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

**November 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

**December 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

**January 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Harley Race, Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

**February 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Jim Garvin & Sunshine, Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

**June 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Dick Slater, Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

**July 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Paul Ellering, Jimmy Valiant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

**August 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

**October 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Billy Jack, Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

**November 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

**January 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

**February 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

**April 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

**June 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

**September 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

**October 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

**November 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

**December 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

**January 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Hack-saw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.

**February 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

**April 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Ric Flair, Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

**May 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

**June 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

**July 1986/COLOR PINUP:** King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

**August 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

**October 1986/COLOR PINUP:** John Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

**November 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arm-Ole.

**January 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

**February 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

**April 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Lex Luger, Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

**May 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

**June 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

**July 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Midnight Rockers, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

**August 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Jim Garvin & Precious, Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

**October 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

**November 1987/COLOR PINUP:** George Steele, Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

**January 1988/COLOR PINUP:** The Road Warriors, Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

**February 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Ronnie Garvin, Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

**April 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

**May 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

**June 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Tully Blanchard, Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

**July 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Curt Hennig, Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

**August 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Al Perez, Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

**October 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Ultimate Warrior, Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

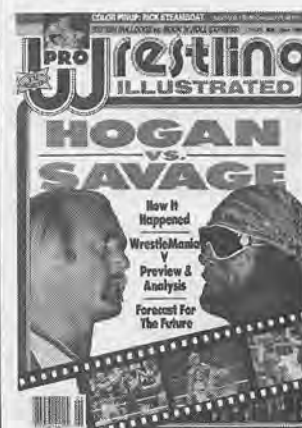
**November 1988/COLOR PINUP:** The Midnight Express, Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

**December 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Hack-saw Duggan, Four Horsemen, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

**January 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Barry Windham, Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth, Warriors, Sting.

**February 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Jake Roberts, Luger, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

**April 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steiner, Savage, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.



## JUNE 1989

**June 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steamboat, Hogan vs. Savage, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

**July 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Roddy Piper, Steamboat, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

**August 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Lex Luger, Hogan, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

**October 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Rude, Luger vs. Hogan, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

**November 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Ric Flair, Rhodes, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

**December 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Jimmy Snuka, Luger, Vicious, Muta, Sting, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

**January 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Sid Vicious, Ultimate, Cornette, Ross, Kerry.

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# A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



Stan Hansen has wracked up a lot of impressive belts and trophies in Japan. With a point to prove, the Texas wildman recently wrestled several matches back in the U.S.

**I**T WAS OVER three years ago (*Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, July and August 1986) that I slunk into the tiny town of Borger, Texas, and into the lives of Emma Lou and Stan Hansen. Longtime read-

ers will recall the violence the fiercely private Hansen exploded into after catching me in his house. With the intervention of his wife and children, he soon calmed down, and by week's end I was

enjoying his famous homemade chili.

I haven't spoken to him since.

Last Friday, as I added Rick Martel's name to the list of former friends who now ignore my phone calls, the phone actually rang. "International operator calling Liz Hunter. Will you accept the call?"

The last time someone reached out and touched me from overseas it was Jim Cornette calling from Tibet. Claimed he discovered a nine-foot-tall mountain man who could defeat Flair, Luger, and Sting with one hand. Turned out he couldn't smuggle him through customs and wondered if I had any pull with the local Tibetan authorities. "Why don't you have your mother buy the damn country," I screamed, slamming the phone down. That bit of nonsense cost me \$135.

"Where's the call from, operator?"

"Tokyo."

Tokyo. Tokyo? I mentally reviewed my Rolodex. As much as I wanted to claim an international network of contacts, I knew I didn't know anyone living in, passing through, or visiting Japan. If this was another Cornette practical joke, I'd ring his scrawny neck. "I'll accept, operator."

"Liz Hunter?" scratched a rough voice 10,000 miles away. "Liz Hunter. Stan Hansen. Tell everyone I'm comin' home. And I'm damn serious this time."

Stan Hansen back in the

(Continued on page 53)



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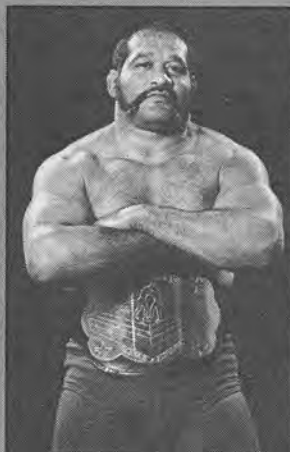
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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

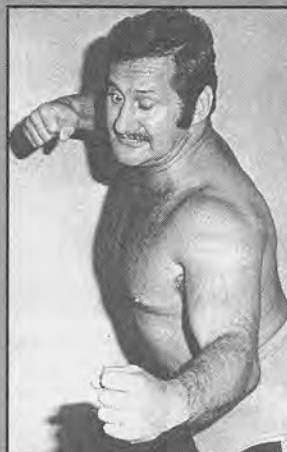
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## CYCLONE NEGRO

This vicious rulebreaker was a top-notch brawler, and his feud with Terry and Dory Funk in the early '70s is still talked about in Texas. Negro still wrestles on rare occasions for independent groups in Florida, but his main vocation

these days is serving as a talent broker for African promoters. He's in charge of procuring top U.S. stars to compete on cards throughout the dark continent. "I'm thankful I'm still involved with the sport," he said.



## BORIS MALENKO

Chain matches were this hated Russian's specialty, as he was one of the first men to compete in this brutal form of competition in the U.S. Malenko now owns and operates a gym in Florida, where he also operates a wrestling school. His

top graduates? His sons Dean and Joe, who currently are two of the biggest stars in the Orient. In fact, Joe is the reigning All-Japan junior heavyweight champion. "I'm as proud as a papa can be," Boris laughed.



## JIM BRUNZELL

This former partner of Greg Gagne, with whom he captured the AWA World tag team title on two occasions, is currently involved in importing and marketing cars to the public at Iten Chevrolet in Minneapolis. Also well-known as a Killer

Bee with B. Brian Blair, Jim stressed that the constant travel demands of the mat sport wore him down, but he also noted that he still competes in several independent federations in Chicago and the midwest.



## MOOSE CHOLAK

Few fans have ever forgotten the sight of the 360-pound Cholak making his way to the ring—with a genuine moose head on his shoulders! "Yukon" Moose, a top star in the midwest in the '60s and '70s, now owns and operates a

popular bar and grill near Dearborn, Michigan. He also makes many charity appearances, and still wrestles on occasion. "I still love my fans," Moose says today. "They're the biggest reason why I was so successful."



# INSIDE WRESTLING

163

## CAPSULE PROFILE

**"N**ATURE BOY" Ric Flair, the current NWA World champion, is one of the greatest wrestlers ever (*"You've got that right, and I don't want anybody to ever forget it"*) ... The six-time NWA World champ's current reign started on May 7, 1989, when he pinned Rick Steamboat (*"Steamboat was a great competitor and that was one of my greatest matches ever; it was what happened afterward I'd rather forget"*) ... Following the match, Terry Funk attacked Flair, igniting a feud that still rages (*"But it's coming to an end; Funk will be history"*) ... Was voted *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* "Wrestler of the Year" four times, was involved in the "Match of the Year" three times, and was voted "Rookie of the Year" in 1975 (*"You'd think these fans had crystal balls. They were right on target with that one"*) ... Possesses an outstanding amateur background: Was Minnesota high school wrestling champion two years, and went on to wrestle for three years at the University of Minnesota (*"I owe it all to my amateur background. It's what sets me apart from the rest"*) ... Actually made his pro debut in 1973 and spent his first year wrestling all over the country ... Then settled in the Mid-Atlantic region, where he has basically

## RIC FLAIR



Ric Flair backdrops Harley Race on his way to recapturing the NWA World title at Starrcade '83. A six-time World titlist, Flair is one of the greatest wrestlers in the sport's history.

remained for his entire career (*"NWA, Mid-Atlantic, Georgia, whatever, this is my home away from home, and I've always had my best matches here"*) ... Almost had his career ended in October 1975 when he suffered a serious back injury in a plane crash (*"They said I should never wrestle again, but that never entered my mind"*) ... Returned to the ring in 1976 and proceeded on a course of success that eventually led to NWA World tag titles in 1977 and 1979, and the U.S. title in 1980 (*"Even the 'Nature Boy' had to earn his dues"*) ... Won his first NWA World title from Dusty Rhodes on September 17, 1981 ... The highlights of the following eight years are too numerous to sufficiently recap: Feuds with Rhodes and Rick Steamboat, memorable matches in Japan, a title vs. title match

against AWA World champion Rick Martel in 1984 (*"I've done it all and then some"*) ... Formed The Four Horsemen in 1986 with Ole and Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard (*"That's one stage of my career I'll never regret"*) ... But Flair's career took another strange turn earlier this year when he lost a TV match to Rick Steamboat and subsequently fired manager J.J. Dillon after a long alliance (*"The man simply wasn't doing his job"*) ... Engaged in a memorable feud with Steamboat that ended with Flair's recapture of the title and the attack by Funk (*"Nearly ended my career, but Funk wasn't gonna get away"*) ... After years as a hated rulebreaker, Flair is now a beloved fan favorite, and an occasional partner of Sting (*"And still the greatest wrestler in the world. That'll never change!"*). □

## CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



**RIC FLAIR**



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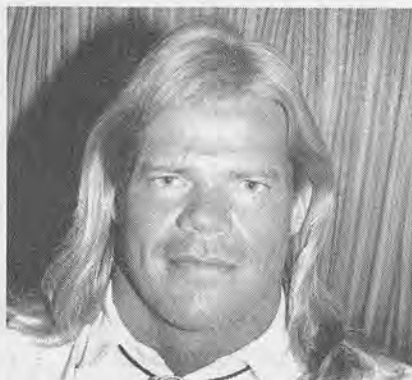
# NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

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## GREENSBORO, NC

By Erica Love



**LEX LUGER**  
vs.  
**STING**



The match was for Luger's U.S. title, but each man was more intent on injuring the other. Sting and Luger traded the advantage throughout the match and, as the battle intensified, it spilled out of the ring. The bout continued on the ring apron, and the referee had no choice but to call for a double-disqualification.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Terry Funk upended Brian Pillman ... Ric Flair defeated The Great Muta by DQ ... Tommy Rich beat The Cuban Assassin ... The Midnight Express beat The New Zealand Militia ... Tom Zenk pinned Bill Irwin ... Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin successfully defended their World tag team title against Rick and Scott Steiner.

## RICHFIELD, OH

By Mike McGuire



**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
vs.  
**ANDRE THE GIANT**



The Ultimate Warrior put his WWF Intercontinental title on the line, but the title was never in jeopardy. The Warrior attacked Andre before the bell and stunned him with two clotheslines and a smash that knocked Andre to the mat. The Warrior then gave Andre a big splash and covered him for the pin. Andre argued that the bell had not rung, but the referee insisted that it had.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Roddy Piper battled to a double-countout with Rick Rude ... Demolition beat The Brain Busters by DQ ... Curt Hennig pinned Jimmy Snuka ... Ronnie Garvin defeated Greg Valentine ... The Honky Tonk Man defeated Terry Taylor ... Lanny Poffo beat Mark Young.

## MILWAUKEE, WI

By Andy Abrahamson



**BAD NEWS BROWN**  
vs.  
**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**

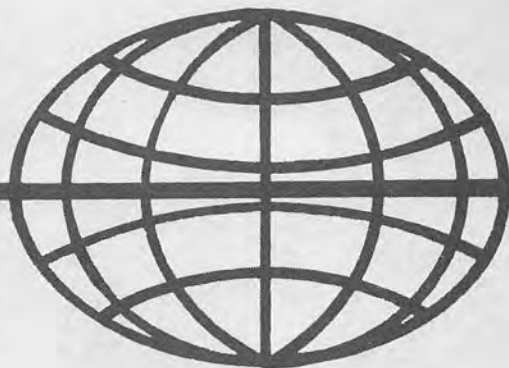


Hercules battered Brown with punches and kicks that had Brown screaming. Brown, however, took control while Hercules argued with the referee. Brown threw Hercules out of the ring, then battered him when he tried to return. Hercules regained brief control while Brown argued with the fans, but when he pressed Bad News against the ropes, the ref forced a break. While Hercules argued again, Bad News hit him with a ghetto blaster kick and got the pin.

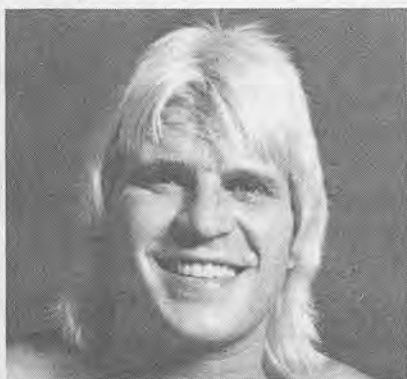
**OTHER BOUTS:** Dusty Rhodes pinned Big Bossman ... Hulk Hogan beat Randy Savage in a steel cage match ... Bret Hart and Haku battled to a double-countout ... Rick Martel and Tito Santana wrestled to a draw ... The Bushwhackers defeated The Powers of Pain by DQ ... Barry Windham pinned Tim Horner.



# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## NORFOLK, VA By Eddie Cheslock



**TOMMY RICH  
vs.  
NORMAN THE LUNATIC**



Rich, wrestling like the former NWA champion that he is, was in control throughout the match. He even managed to slam the huge Norman several times. When it became clear that Norman was losing badly, Norman's manager, Teddy Long, interfered. He handed a key to Norman, then distracted the referee. Norman used the key to hit Rich and cover him for the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Ric Flair beat Terry Funk ... Ranger Ross defeated Brady Anderson ... Brian Pillman beat Cuban Assassin ... The Skyscrapers beat The Midnight Express ... Sting defeated The Great Muta by DQ ... The Dynamic Dudes beat The New Zealand Militia ... Lex Luger beat Steve Williams.

## DOTHAN, AL By Greg Hepern



**BRAD ARMSTRONG  
vs.  
DENNIS CONDREY**



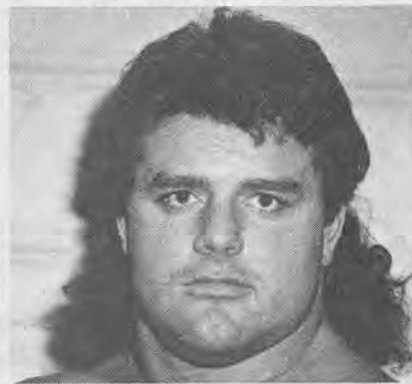
Armstrong finally got a shot at Condrey's CWF title and came away with the victory, but not the belt. Armstrong kept the edge and Condrey constantly left the ring. Desperate, Condrey pulled a pair of brass knuckles out of his tights, but Armstrong ducked to avoid a punch, then delivered a crushing back-drop. As both Armstrong and the ref reached for the brass knuckles, Condrey delivered a DDT and scored the pin. But the ref had already disqualified Condrey.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Jimmy Golden & Brian Lee defeated Tracey Smothers & Steve Armstrong ... Adrian Street won a loser-leaves-town match against Terrance M. Garvin ... Jerry Stubbs beat Cactus Jack by DQ ... The Beast beat Todd Morton ... Dixie Dynamite defeated Downtown Bruno.

## CALGARY, ALBERTA By Arthur Parker

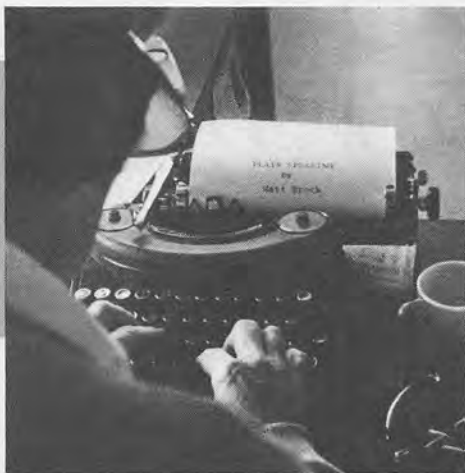


**LARRY CAMERON  
vs.  
DAVEY BOY SMITH**



Cameron's Stampede North American title wasn't on the line in this "Brooklyn street brawl," but his 108-match winning streak was. Cameron tried to hit Davey Boy with a chain handed to him by his manager, Hugh Hart, but Davey ducked. He then dropkicked Cameron, forcing him to drop the chain. Davey then used the chain on Cameron and went on to win the match and break the streak.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Bruce Hart beat Angel of Death and was attacked by the Derringer brothers after the match ... The Archangel beat Beef Wellington ... The Derringer brothers beat Ken Johnson & Dr. Zhivago ... Gama Singh beat Ron Ritchie.



# Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

**YOKOHAMA, JAPAN:** There's a good possibility that Jumbo Tsuruta is the best wrestler in the world. For the second time, Tsuruta is a triple-crown Japanese champion. He beat Genichiro Tenryu here to win the All-Japan International, United National, and Pacific Wrestling Federation titles in a 22-minute 38-second classic. Tsuruta has incredible abilities and is reason enough to make a trip to Japan. Tenryu, too, is an absolute legend. Put it this way, folks: Yours truly doesn't like Japan. I don't like the weather, the cities, the food, *nothing*. But the wrestling is first-rate all the way.



**JUMBO TSURUTA**

**UNIONDALE, NY:** It's okay, folks. Ronald Gossett and Jeff Jarrett have already had their loser-gets-powdered-and-diapered match, and there isn't another one scheduled. The Etowah County Fair is long over, but stick around! A bunch of USWA wrestlers competed in a demolition derby down in Mesquite, Texas (where, I suppose, Yuppie barbecue chips come from), and yours truly will be there. But that's *tomorrow* night. Tonight, there's wrestling at the Nassau Coliseum, and sitting right next to me, just a quick peek over my right shoulder, is good ol' 37-24-36, the new shrink Stu Saks hired to help the employees of this rag with mental stress. Yes, 37-24-36 has a name, and it's not Brenda Bimbo. She's Dr. Rachel Longwood, and I believe she has her eyes on me. "Mr. Brock, I think I should observe you in action," she said just a few hours ago. "Ms. Longwood, that's a great idea," I responded. The night was going great. Dinner at Mickey D's, then a quick trip over to the Coliseum where we sat just three rows off the ring. But wouldn't you know it, just as I was starting to get comfortable, she



**JACQUES ROUGEAU VS. MARTY JANNETTY**



**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**



**TARAS BULBA**

pulled out a notebook. "Hey, listen, *I'm* the reporter around here," I said. "Tonight," she responded, "you're the subject." So I played along. After all, she was wearing a skirt that stopped operating about four inches above her knees, and if there's one thing Brock is, it's a leg man. "Gotta watch the matches," I said. "Go ahead and watch," she said. What she didn't know was that I was about to test just how much of a professional she really was. The Rougeaus wrestled The Rockers in another one of those one-hour marathon matches, and I figured that if she sat through that, she meant business. She didn't. About 15 minutes into the thing, her beeper went off. "I'm sorry, Mr. Brock, but I have to leave," she said. "There's an emergency." "An emergency mental case?" I shot back, but it was too late. The match, though, was terrific.

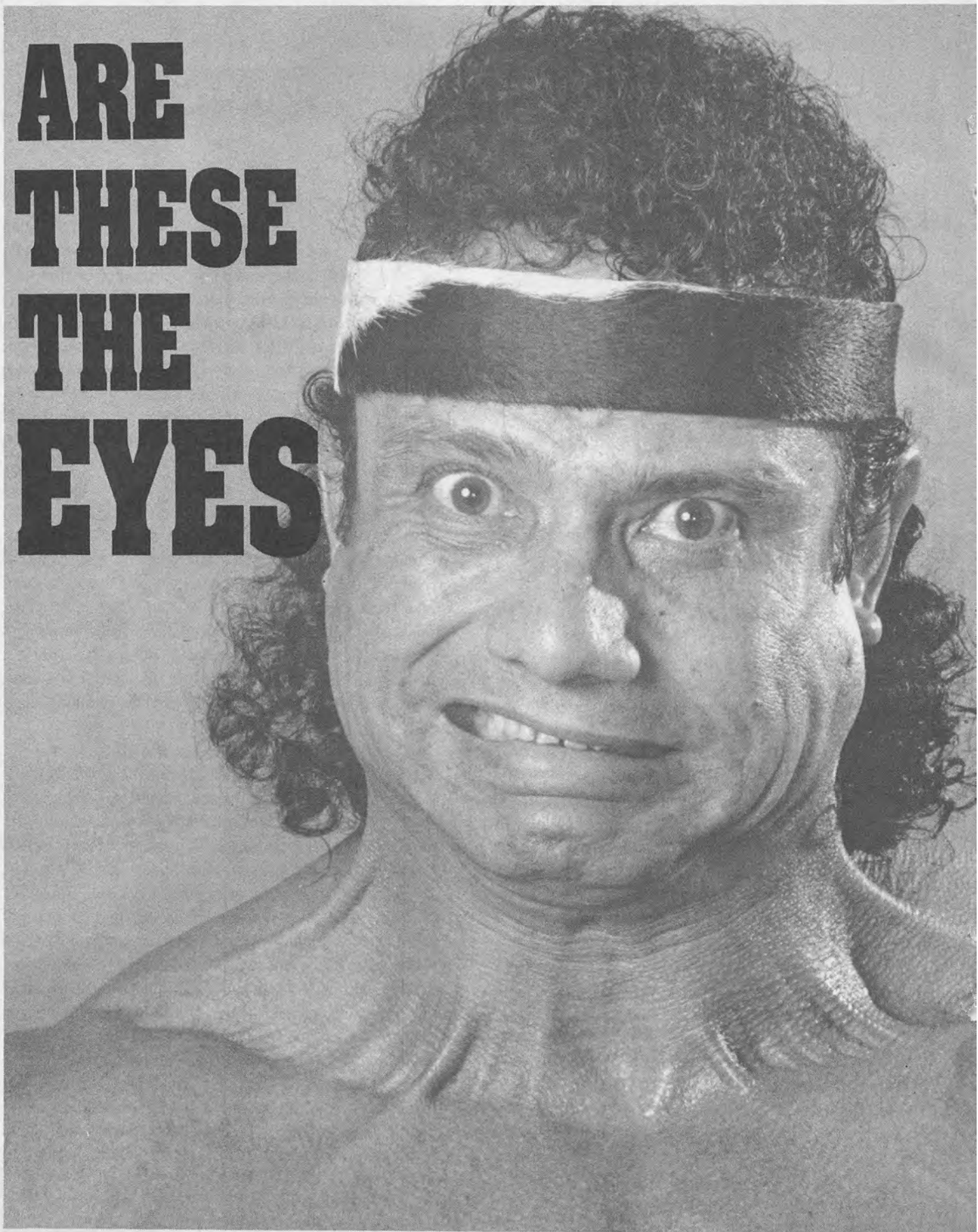
**MESQUITE, TX:** They all said I should have been in Dallas last night. Kerry Von Erich won the USWA Texas title from The Punisher and there was a major celebration afterward. "It was a great evening," Von Erich said, but he didn't admit to what I think was the real reason for his happiness. You see, Kerry once was the big man in Texas, but at about this time last year, Eric Embry started to capture the fans' imagination. The thing was, Embry used the Texas title as his springboard to stardom. The Texas title was the basis for his feud with Gen. Skandor

Akbar, and it's probably the main reason why World Class is now known as the USWA. Kerry never admitted that he was jealous of Embry, but I think he was. Who can blame him? Athletes need to have an ego, or else they have no chance of success. You *have* to think you're the best. Now that he's Texas champion, maybe a little of the attention will swing back to Kerry's corner. Tonight, the spotlight shone brightly on Kerry. This was the night the USWA's wrestlers put their lives on the line to draw a crowd. Think they do that every night? Well, tonight was different. They had a demolition derby at the Devil's Bowl Speedway featuring Kerry, Billy Travis, Percy Pringle, Taras Bulba, Jeff Jarrett, Ron Starr, P.Y. Chu-Hi, Chris Adams, Bill Dundee, Gary Young, and Sheik Braddock. Kerry won, but that's not the point. The point is that, once again, wrestling had to stand aside while a sideshow took center stage. Are cars crashing into each other more exciting than pro wrestling? I think not. For fans to be interested in a demolition derby involving wrestlers, they first must be interested in the wrestlers themselves. If they're interested in the wrestlers themselves, they should be more interested in wrestling than car racing. Case closed.

**MEMPHIS, TN:** News flash! The Soultaker pinned Jerry Lawler tonight in a lumberjack match and might have won the USWA title. It's in doubt, though. During the match, the lumberjacks started fighting, and referee Frank Morell tried to break it up. Then Nate the Rat ran into the ring and smashed Lawler over the head. Soultaker made the cover, but Lawler kicked out (even though it didn't matter because Morell's attention was diverted). Dutch Mantel ran into the ring and tried to hit Soultaker with a cane, but Soultaker ducked and Lawler was hit in the throat. Morell returned to the ring just as Soultaker covered Lawler for the pin and the win. Several USWA and CWF officials were on hand, however, so it's possible that the title *will* be held up. Right now, the result is unofficial. But if you ask me, Lawler should still have the belt. Things got out of hand and the match should have been stopped. Instead, Soultaker scored an illegal pin. Why should the belt be held up? Lawler still hasn't done anything to deserve losing it; Soultaker hasn't done anything to deserve winning it. □

# JIMMY SNUKA

**ARE  
THESE  
THE  
EYES**





---

**Jimmy Snuka is a changed man, and that can only mean trouble.**

**Always wild with a streak of violence, the "Superfly" has become a dangerous madman since returning to the WWF!**

---

By Eddie Ellner

THE LIGHTS IN Madison Square Garden suddenly darkened, replaced by an electric buzz of anticipation. One minute passed . . . then two. Who would next emerge from the

That has become even more apparent now that Snuka is back in the WWF.

The 1989 version of Jimmy Snuka is a supercharged version of his old self. The result of fierce training, Snuka is back in the early '80s form

that time and again came within a split-second of the WWF championship. Besides remembering the early Snuka, fans and reporters liken today's "Superfly" to another popular madman, Bruiser Brody.

"Jimmy has heard that talk, and it  
(Continued on page 54)

# OF A MADMAN?

dressling room? Why the mysterious delay?

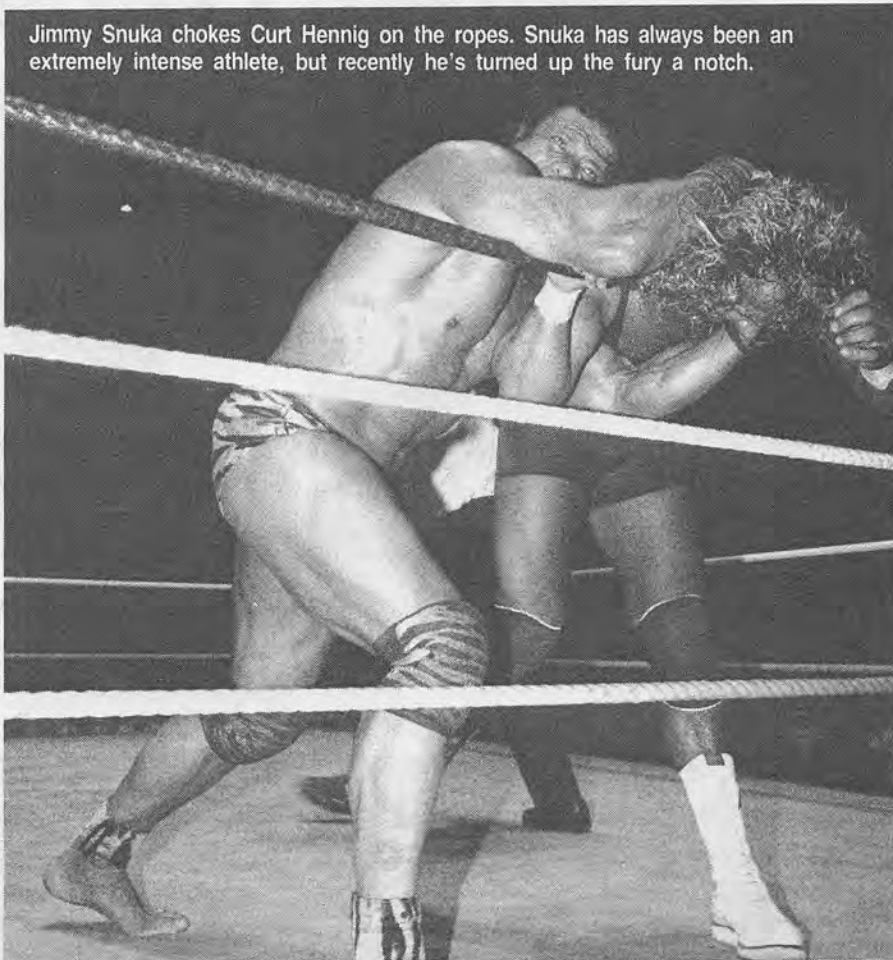
A flash of fire raced through the crowd and leapt to the ring. The wild mane of curly hair . . . the leopard-skin shorts . . . the muscles . . . the lunatic expression on the face of . . . it had to be . . . it could only be . . . "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka, triumphantly returning to the WWF after a one-year absence!

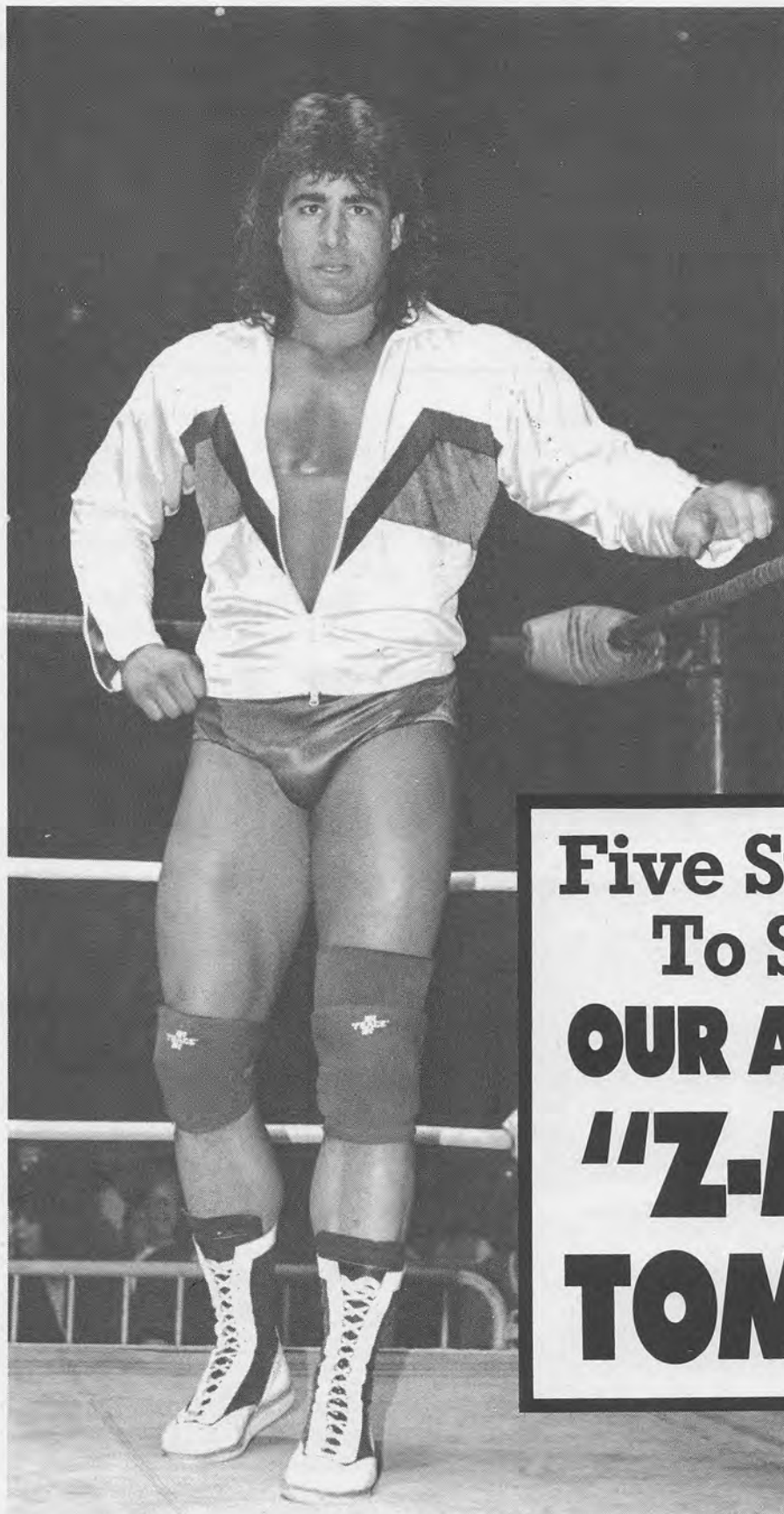
The crowd came ungled. The chant immediately rocked the Garden: "Snuka! Snuka! Snuka!"

But no—though he looked like Snuka and moved like Snuka, the wrestler scurrying around the ring was *not* Jimmy Snuka. This wrestler was even *more* hyperactive. He twirled his baton of fire like a mad cheerleader. He leaned back his head and howled. He backflipped across the ring to greet an opponent overwhelmed and overmatched.

That wrestler, the long-forgotten Siva Afi, never did receive the adoration Snuka did, indicating that there is more to Snuka's popularity than his Polynesian heritage.

Jimmy Snuka chokes Curt Hennig on the ropes. Snuka has always been an extremely intense athlete, but recently he's turned up the fury a notch.





**F**IRST OF ALL, a word to Tom Zenk: Don't take this the wrong way. Though five *Inside Wrestling* editors are offering you alternatives for the future, we're not trying to run your career. In the last several years, you've demonstrated that you're very much your own man. No one has the right to tell you what to do.

Think of this as friendly advice. We're offering suggestions, not directives. You may agree with some, may think others are ridiculous, but we hope you give them all some thought. Sometimes we'll contradict one another, but we all have your best interests in mind.

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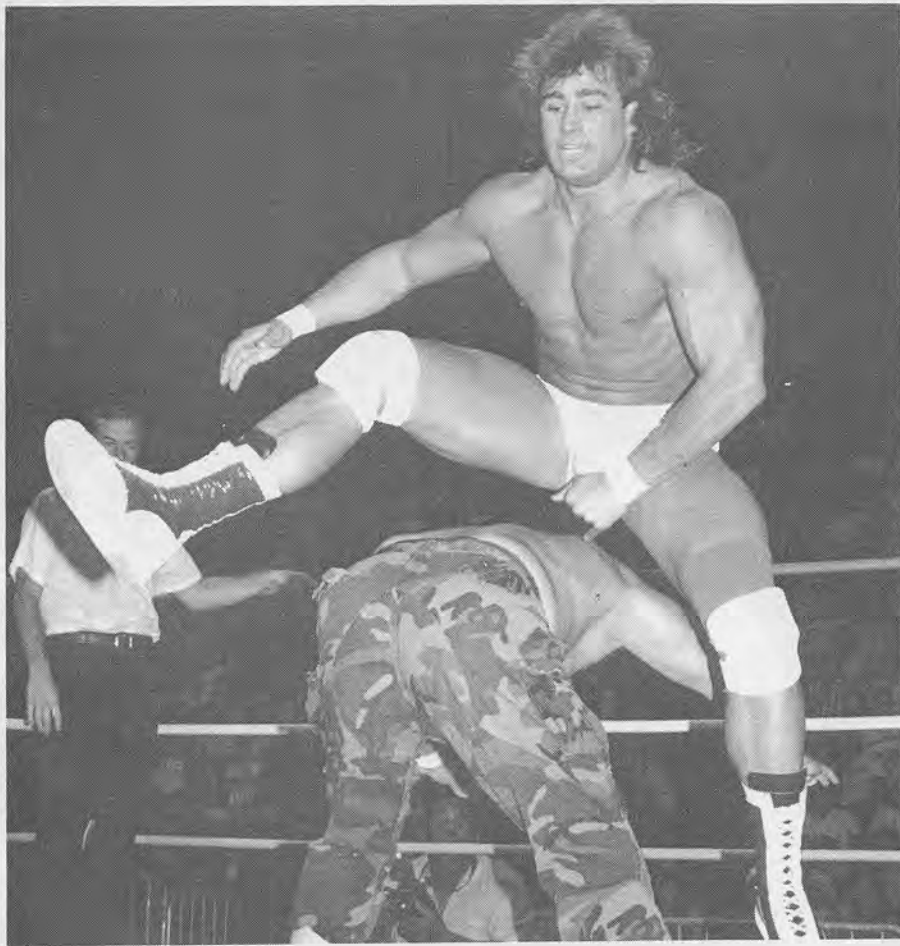
#### STAY A SINGLES WRESTLER

**Craig Peters:** It's obvious that Zenk is a young man on his way up in the sport. He's learned from his mistakes, the biggest mistake being his ill-fated teaming with Rick Martel in the WWF in 1987. As The Can-Am Connection,

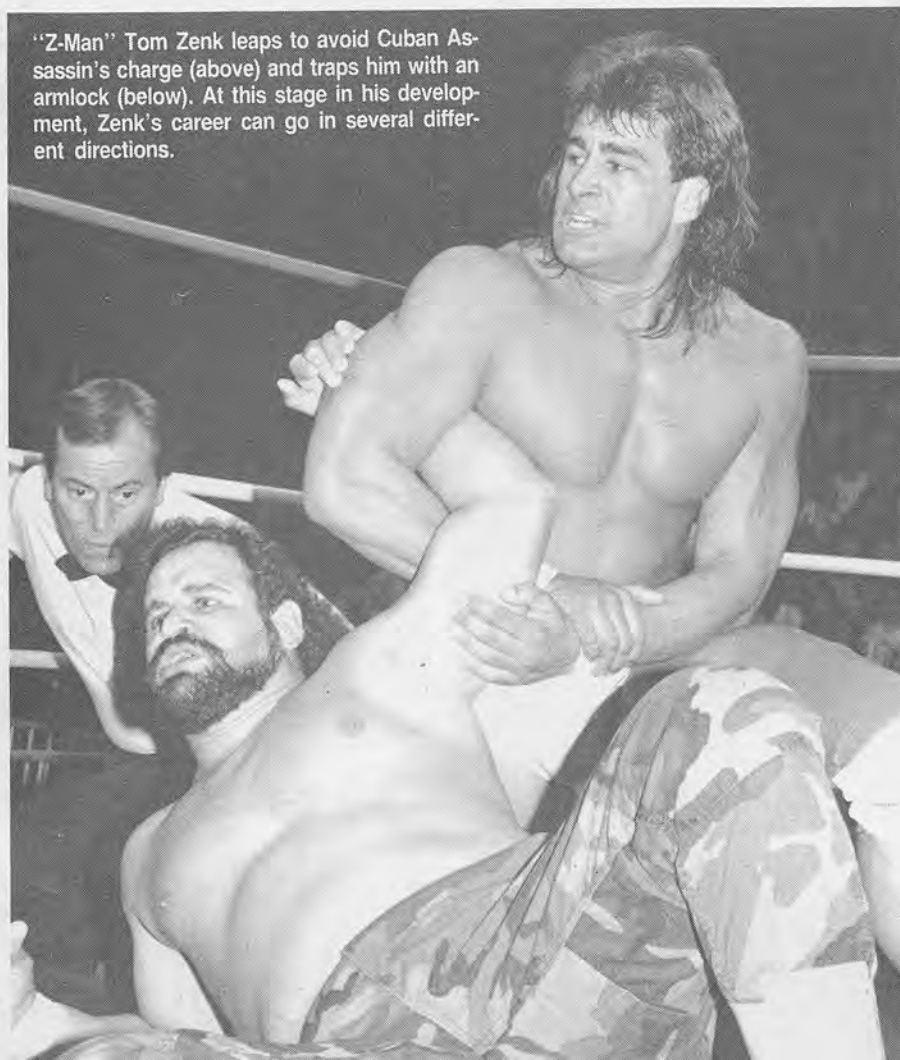
## Five Sure Roads To Success OUR ADVICE TO "Z-MAN" TOM ZENK

Since his arrival in the NWA, "Z-Man" Tom Zenk has proven he's one of the best young wrestlers in the sport. But he's capable of reaching even greater heights. In this article, five *Inside Wrestling* editors give their views on which direction Zenk's career should be taking





"Z-Man" Tom Zenk leaps to avoid Cuban Assassin's charge (above) and traps him with an armlock (below). At this stage in his development, Zenk's career can go in several different directions.



they appeared to be on the verge of winning the WWF World tag team title, but they quickly fell apart.

Was it Zenk's fault? The jury is still out. There were reports that Zenk didn't appreciate being the junior member of the team. Martel is a seasoned veteran who wanted everything done his own way. Zenk wanted to contribute, but Martel wanted a teacher-pupil relationship.

The experience taught Zenk that he's better off on his own. By taking sole responsibility for his actions, he has become a more complete wrestler. With each match, he moves closer to reaching his goals.

#### GET A TAG TEAM PARTNER

**Eddie Ellner:** I can't agree with Craig's advice, because I think Zenk shows more promise as a tag team wrestler. With The Can-Am Connection, he just got off to a bad start. Instead of teaming with a former AWA World champion like Martel, he should find a partner closer to his age and experience. That would lessen the chance of any personality clashes.

Zenk should give a new team time to succeed. Don't expect to win any titles right away. In other words, be patient, and don't be afraid to fail. There are a lot of very good teams in the NWA right now, and title shots aren't easy to come by. Eventually, Zenk and his partner (I don't care who he chooses, but Brian Pillman might be a good start) will gain the seasoning they need to succeed.

#### GO AFTER THE U.S. TITLE

**Bill Apter:** U.S. champion Lex Luger doesn't think much of Tom Zenk. "You mean the 'Z-Man'?" Lex scoffed. "Don't make me laugh. That punk couldn't even dream of being in the same class as the 'Total Package.'"

If those words don't get Zenk fired up, nothing will. It's the impetus Zenk needs to make a serious run at the U.S. title. While Luger has a decisive advantage in size and power, Zenk is a better scientific wrestler, and it's the men who know how to *wrestle* who have given Luger the most trouble. Ric

(Continued on page 56)

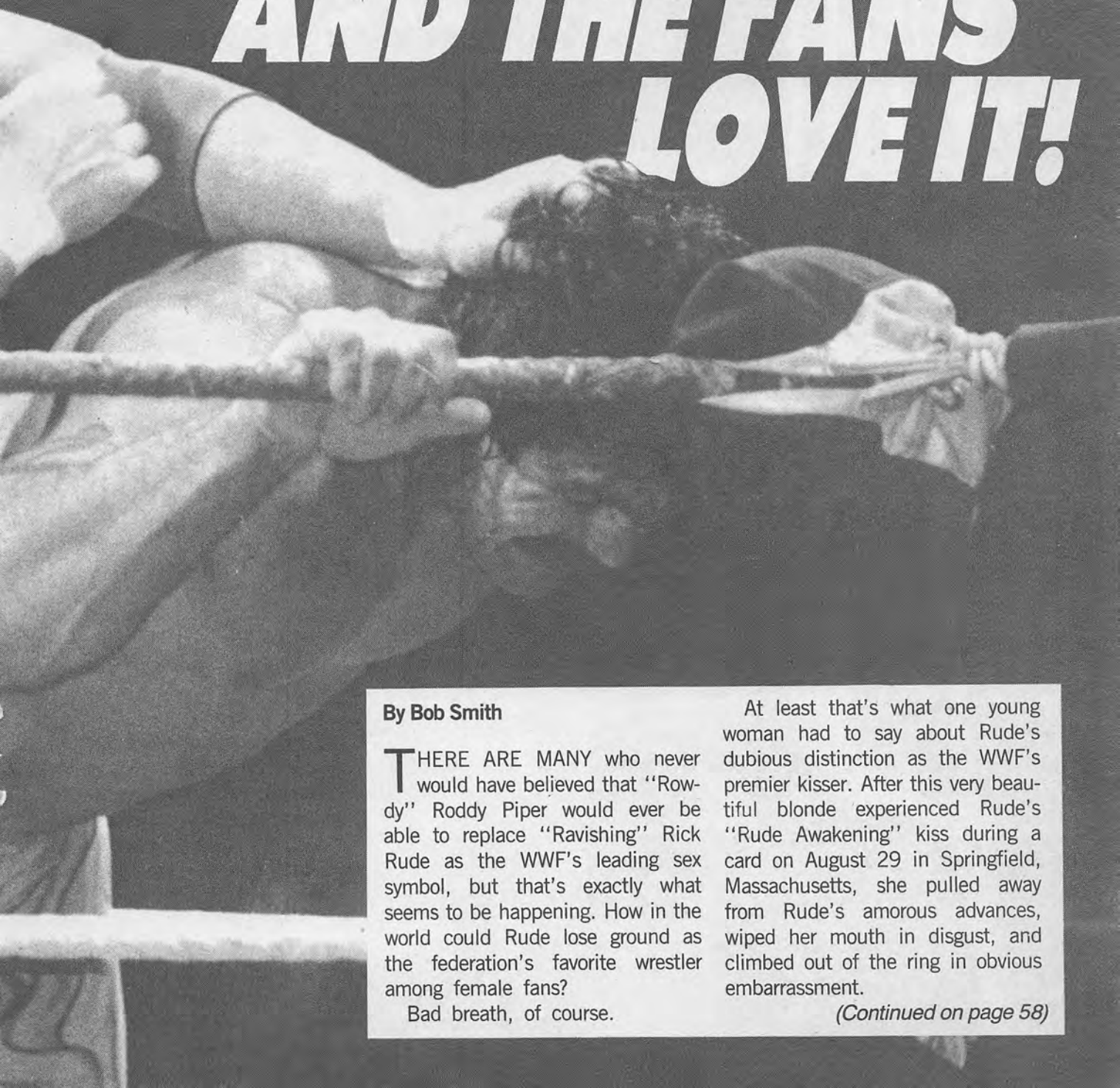
**At one point,  
Rick Rude was  
widely  
acknowledged as  
the sexiest man in  
the WWF. But  
since Roddy Piper  
has returned, he's  
been beating  
Rude at his own  
game—both in  
the ring *and* in  
garnering legions  
of female fans!**

Roddy Piper, the WWF's newest sex symbol, shoves Rick Rude head-first into the turnbuckle.



Sex Symbol Showdown:

# RUDE'S OUT . . . PIPER'S IN . . . AND THE FANS LOVE IT!



By Bob Smith

**T**HERE ARE MANY who never would have believed that "Rowdy" Roddy Piper would ever be able to replace "Ravishing" Rick Rude as the WWF's leading sex symbol, but that's exactly what seems to be happening. How in the world could Rude lose ground as the federation's favorite wrestler among female fans?

Bad breath, of course.

At least that's what one young woman had to say about Rude's dubious distinction as the WWF's premier kisser. After this very beautiful blonde experienced Rude's "Rude Awakening" kiss during a card on August 29 in Springfield, Massachusetts, she pulled away from Rude's amorous advances, wiped her mouth in disgust, and climbed out of the ring in obvious embarrassment.

*(Continued on page 58)*

*Photos by Roy London*

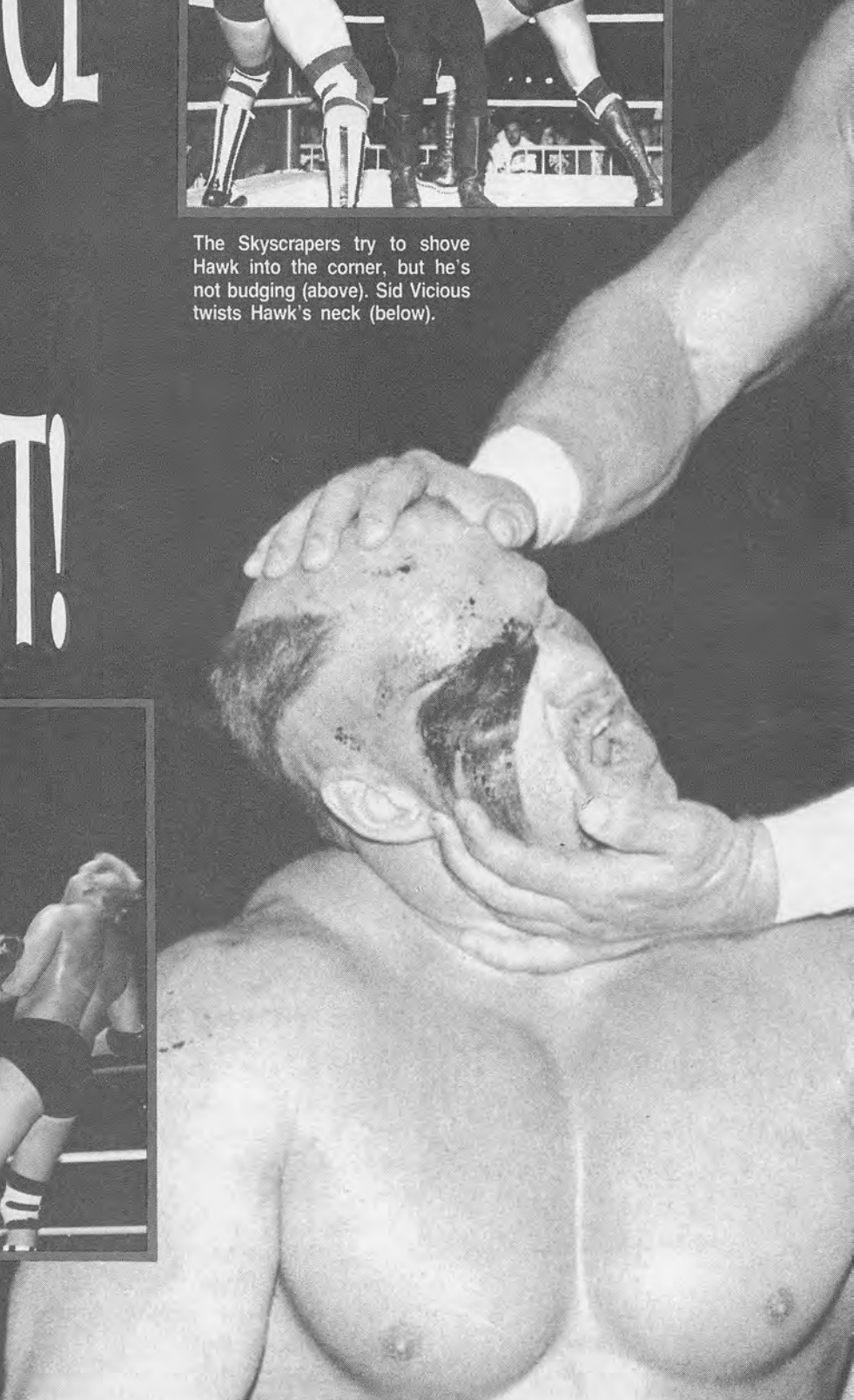
# VIOLENCE WITH A TWIST!



The Skyscrapers try to shove Hawk into the corner, but he's not budging (above). Sid Vicious twists Hawk's neck (below).



Animal dropkicks Dan Spivey (above). The Warriors are eager to prove that The Skyscrapers haven't reached their class yet.







## Road Warriors VS Skyscrapers:

By Dave Rosenbaum

**T**HE BATTLE FOR the future began on September 21 in Savannah, Georgia. An event was held that sent the NWA spiraling toward the 1990s—and beyond. When The Road Warriors met The Skyscrapers for the first time, more was at stake than the simple result of a wrestling match. *Lives* were on the line.

The Road Warriors: Four-time winners of the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Tag Team of the Year award. Two-time world tag team champions (once in the AWA and once in the NWA). Animal and Hawk: 567 pounds of solid muscle driven by minds filled with violent ideas and malicious thoughts. The tag team that has dominated wrestling in the 1980s.

The Skyscrapers: Danny Spivey and Sid Vicious. A strapping 618 pounds of muscle on a pair of 6'8" frames. Dangerous men of steel looking toward the future. The tag team that hopes to dominate wrestling in the next decade.

But before they can look toward the 1990s, they must get through 1989—and past The Road Warriors. And before the Warriors can continue their tradition of domination, they must get past The Skyscrapers.

It's that simple, and that complicated.

Because when The Road Warriors and The Skyscrapers go head to head, there's violence, to be sure. But this isn't your ordinary garden-variety violence-for-the-sake-of-winning-titles-and-settling-a-grudge violence.

**Animal and Hawk have had a great past, but now their future is on the line. Sid Vicious and Danny Spivey are looking toward a glorious future. But the careers of both teams are intertwined in a feud that means so much more than power and pride. It's a fight for life!**

This is violence for *life*. Both teams must destroy to survive, and there is no easy way out.

"Beating these guys means more to us than beating The Powers of Pain ever did," Warrior manager Paul Ellering said. "Warlord and Barbarian weren't a threat. Yeah, they caused us some problems at the start, like when they injured Animal's eye, although even *that* wasn't their doing alone. Ivan Koloff did that. We knew that Warlord and Barbarian were big, and little else. They were clowns. These guys, The Skyscrapers, they're hardly clowns."

(Continued on page 60)

# HOTSEAT

## THE DESTRUCTION CREW:

### "STEP RIGHT UP, WE'LL KICK YOUR BUTTS!"

**T**HERE'S NO DOUBT that 1989 has been a very, very good year for Wayne "The Train" Bloom and "Mean" Mike Enos, better known as The Destruction Crew. When the year began, both of these men were languishing in obscurity. But as the decade draws to a close, they're the AWA World tag team champions.

Ever since the spring, when veteran manager Johnny Valiant gained control of this surprisingly talented 518-pound team, this rookie pair has embarked on a campaign of mayhem no one has even come close to stopping. They attacked then-AWA tag champions Ken Patera and Brad Rheingans during a car-lifting challenge on May 6, and Rheingans still hasn't recovered. They brutalized Wahoo McDaniel, severely injuring his right eye, later on that same card, and the veteran star was forced to retire due to a detached retina.

But perhaps the biggest damage Bloom and Enos have done has been to the AWA tag team title itself. Since Rheingans needed reconstructive surgery to repair his right knee, he and Patera were forced to relinquish the belts when they couldn't defend them within 60 days. On October 1 in Rochester, Minnesota, Bloom and Enos defeated Paul Diamond and Greg Gagne in the finals of a one-night tournament to determine new champions—

with some help from Kokina, Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, Valiant, and a foreign object.

Associate Editor Bob Smith was in Minneapolis to speak with both Crew members about their improbable rise to prominence in the AWA.

**Q:** Gentlemen, I've just finished watching a videotape of your vic-

“

**Mike and I simply refuse to lose. And that's why there isn't anybody in the AWA that can beat us.**

”

tory in the AWA tag team tournament. I don't think I've ever seen a team that was so lucky—or so unabashedly violent. I can't believe that two able-bodied young men needed the outside help of not only your own manager, but Kokina and Al-Kaissie as well, to win those belts. How can you possibly be proud of the things you've done?

**MIKE ENOS:** Hey, listen here, man...

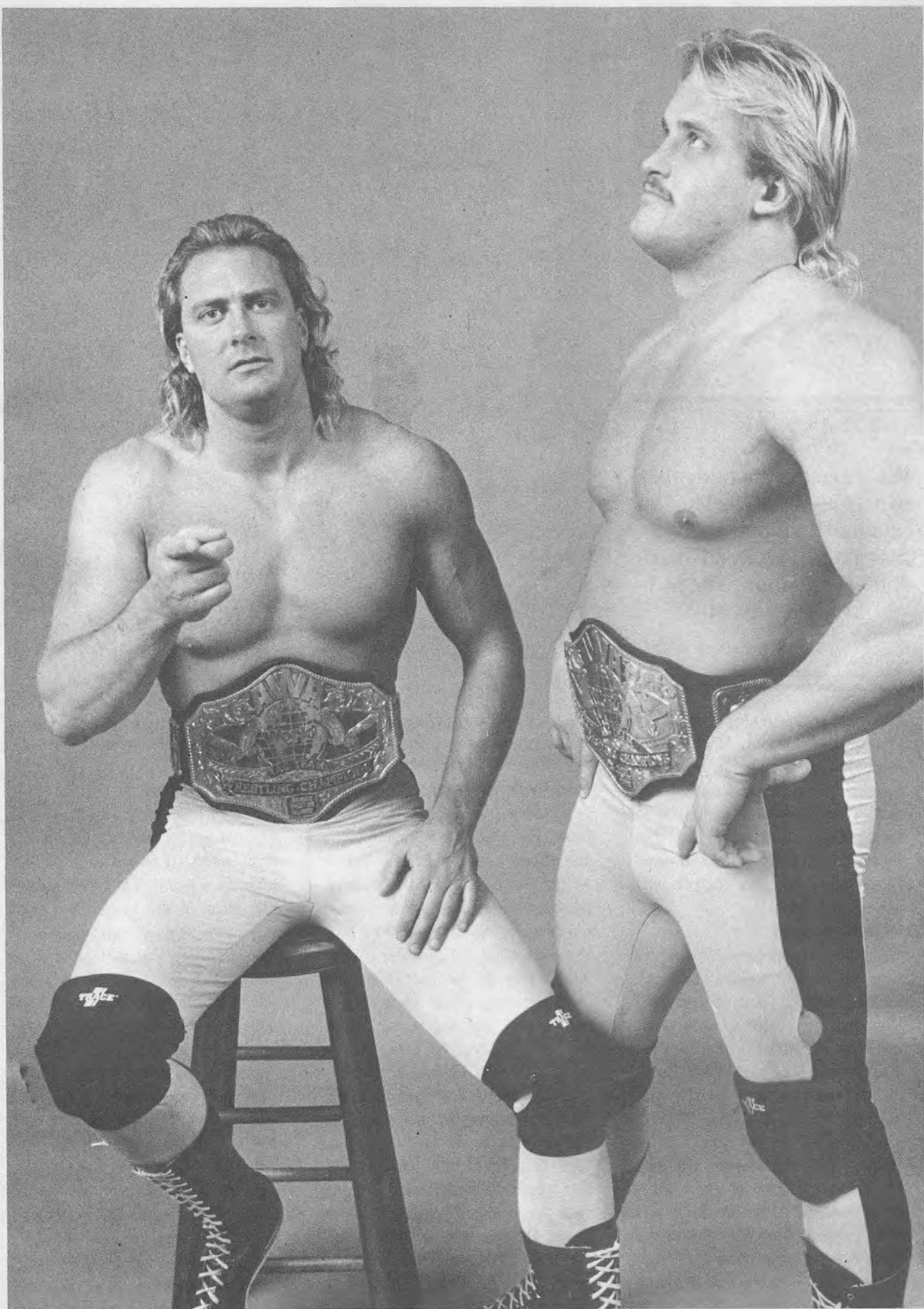
**WAYNE BLOOM:** I'll handle this, Mike. Listen, buddy, you've got a hell of a lot of nerve putting us down like that. When is the last time you saw a new tag team go all the way to the top as quickly as we have?

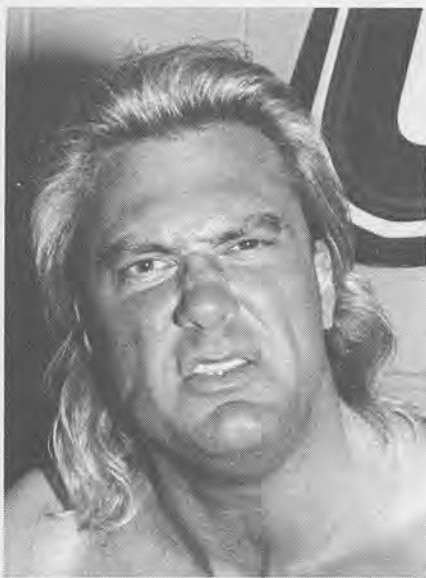
**Q:** I'll admit that you've had more success than just about anyone ever dreamed you would. But it's the way you guys win that has the fans all up in arms. How can you two even sleep at night knowing you've crippled two men, and cheated your way to the AWA World title?

**BLOOM:** Hey, I snooze like a baby, jerk. Who are you to come in here and tell us how to win? When Mike and I started our wrestling careers late last year, we took our lumps just like any aspiring wrestlers would. But it was our own fault, because we just weren't being aggressive enough. That's exactly why Johnny Valiant has helped us so much. He knows that to succeed in this business, you've gotta be rougher and meaner than everybody else. That's the kind of fighting spirit he's instilled in our hearts. Mike and I simply refuse to lose. And that's why there isn't anybody in the AWA that can beat us.

**Q:** I don't agree. You *are* champions now, but I haven't seen you win an







“

**We'll take on anybody that wants to wrestle us. That includes Diamond, Patera, Slaughter, The Road Warriors, Demolition, The Sky-scrapers, anybody.**

”

important match on your own since you became a team. Look at the tourney, for example. In your first match, against Baron Von Raschke and Sgt. Slaughter, Valiant tried to hand Wayne a sledgehammer, but Baron got it away from him—and Baron ended up being the one who got disqualified!

**BLOOM: Big deal.**

**Q:** Wait, I'm not finished. When you won the final, Kokina and Al-Kaissie attacked both Gagne and Diamond for reasons I *still* don't understand. And even after all that, Wayne used a pair of brass knuckles to kayo Diamond for the winning pin!

**ENOS:** That's a lie! We didn't . . .

**BLOOM:** Hey, take it easy, big guy. I'll handle this. First of all, whatever Kokina and Al-Kaissie do is their own business. Everybody knows the Sheik hates Gagne more than anyone else, and when he saw us dump Greg out of the ring on his anorexic



Mike Enos and Destruction Crew manager Johnny Valiant hold Greg Gagne against the ropes. Valiant, a crafty veteran and a former tag team champion himself, will do whatever it takes to keep the AWA tag title in the Crew's hands.

butt, Sheik used it as an opportunity to put a few knots on his nappy head. Hey, we admit that Kokina and Sheik got involved, but it wasn't *our* fault! As for this brass knuckles garbage, I've never heard anything so ridiculous in my life. I've dead-lifted 821 pounds. I've set world records in car-lifting and bench-pressing. Since when does a man of my size and strength need to use a weapon to knock out a wimp like Paul Diamond?

**Q:** That's what [AWA President Joe] Blanchard wants to know. It's too late for him to do anything about your undeserved title victory, but he's going to be watching all of your upcoming title defenses like a hawk. He also told me that if you two stoop to those kind of tactics again, he's strip away those belts instantly.

**ENOS:** He's full of . . .

**BLOOM:** Whoa, Mikey, chill out. Let that old fossil Blanchard do whatever he wants. If he wants to see our matches, I'll buy him the best ring-side ticket in the house. He won't ever catch us doin' anything wrong. You see, Mr. Valiant is a member of what I like to call the "old school" of rulebreakers. When Johnny was in his prime, wrestlers knew how to break the rules and get away with it. That's exactly what he's been teaching me and Mike to do. When's the last time you saw us get disqualified?

**Q:** (pauses) I don't think I ever have, come to think of it.

**BLOOM:** That's right. And that's why we've been able to retire so many top opponents. Brad Rheingans? He's history! Wahoo McDaniel? That Indian chump shoulda hung



up those feathers long ago. And now we've added little Greggie to our list.

**Q:** Wait a minute! You two had nothing at all to do with Greg Gagne's decision to leave the active ranks. I know, because I spoke with him when he made the announcement, and he . . .

**ENOS:** Bull. *We're the . . .*

**BLOOM:** Hold on, Mike. Listen here, scribe. He'd never admit it, but The Destruction Crew is the *real* reason that Gagne is history. Just like his decrepit ol' man once ran from Nick Bockwinkel, Greggie is taking off because the Crew is just too much for him. He knew he could never find a partner to beat us, and he also realized that both me and Mike were inching closer and closer to that TV title he wears. So instead of getting crippled for life, he just decided to take off so he could retire an undefeated champion. He's

just proven to the world that he's nothing more than a coward.

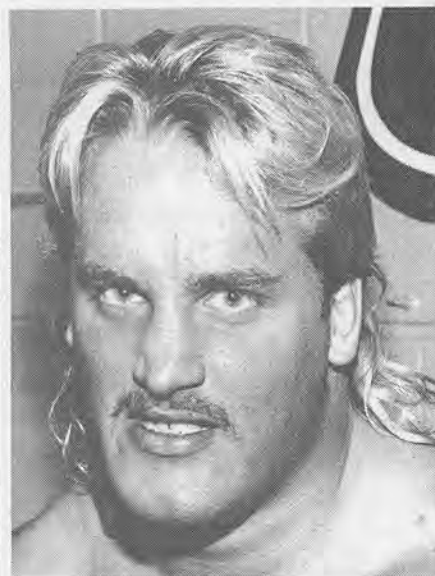
**Q:** That's funny. That's what a lot of people are calling you two.

**BLOOM:** That's only because those people have no idea what a truly great tag team really is. Cowards, eh? We'll take on anybody that wants to wrestle us. That includes Diamond, Patera, Slaughter, The Road Warriors, The Skyscrapers, Demolition, *anybody*. Just step right up, and we'll kick your butts!

**Q:** You're certainly confident, Wayne. But how about the Team Challenge Series that's now in full swing? In this type of series, you two will undoubtedly have to wrestle in singles matches quite a bit, as well as team with other partners. Are you ready for this kind of a challenge?

**ENOS:** Ready? Why, we're . . .

**BLOOM:** Down, Mike. Like I was saying before, Enos and I have really hit our stride. In less than a year,



“

In less than a year, we've both gone from being nobodies to two of the most feared men in any federation.

”



Wayne Bloom batters Gagne and claims The Destruction Crew forced Greg's retirement. The Crew has accomplished much for a team that is less than a year old.

we've both gone from being nobodies to two of the most feared men in any federation. I'm glad we were both drafted onto Larry Zbyszko's team, because hanging around with a guy like that can only help us gain even *more* knowledge. So, as you can see, we're quite ready for whatever fate has in store for us.

**Q:** Well, gentlemen, it's about time to wrap this up. But before I do, I have one last question for you, Wayne.

**BLOOM:** Sure. Fire away.

**Q:** Why don't you ever let Mike say anything?

**BLOOM:** What do you mean? Mike's one of the most intelligent, articulate guys in wrestling. Tell him all about it, Mike.

**ENOS:** That's right. I'm . . .

**BLOOM:** Oh, hey, we're late to meet Johnny! Sorry, bub. This interview is history. □

**K**ERRY VON ERICH has climbed into the wrestling ring at The Sportatorium in Dallas hundreds—perhaps thousands—of times. Blind-fold him at the dressing room door and he'll easily make his way to the ring. When fans shake his hand before matches, there's a good chance he knows their names.

It is his home court. Just a bit down the road from The Sportatorium is where Kerry lives. A bit farther down the road is where his mother and father have lived for decades. But since last December 13, when Kerry lost the World Class heavyweight title to Jerry Lawler, home has not had its familiar comforts.

Kerry Von Erich was a champion without a belt.

That's what made October 20 at The Sportatorium so important. His match that night was against USWA Texas champion The Punisher, a man with inferior abilities aided by devious manager Gen. Skandor Akbar. Kerry saw The Punisher as a beatable opponent: a man with a title, a man who could put him back on the right track.

So when Kerry climbed into the ring on October 20, The Sportatorium didn't feel like it always had. The air had a strange feeling, and Kerry had a sense of urgency. The comforts of home seemed far away.

*This is my match. This is my town. This punk doesn't stand a chance against me, but I can't let him get the best of me. Once I let down my guard, I'm in trouble. This guy has what I want, and I'm gonna get it.*

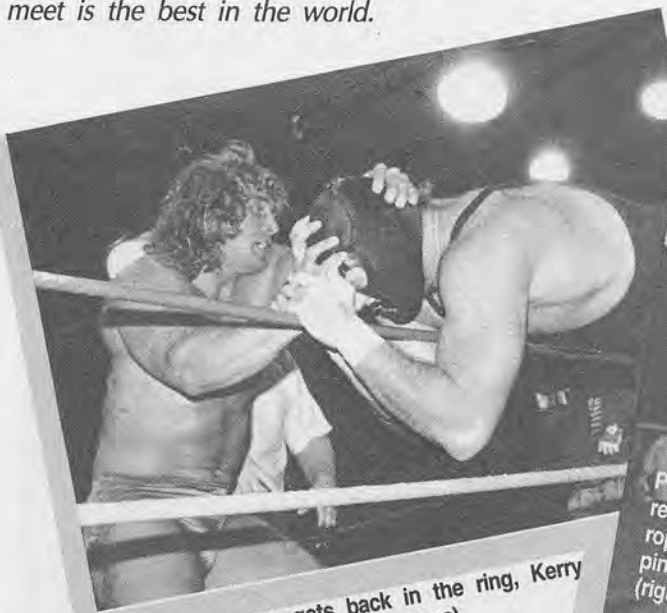
The chance of a letdown seemed too real. In 1984, Von Erich beat Flair for the NWA World title. For most of the past two years, he has feuded with Jerry Lawler for either the USWA (formerly World Class) belt or the AWA World championship. Life was filled with main events against top competition.

But The Punisher?

*He's a wrestler and he sure as heck has more than you've got right now, buddy. He's got a belt, you've got nothing. Put yourself up on a pedestal and you're gonna get knocked right down, that's for certain. Remember what Dad always said: Ain't no such thing as an unloaded gun. Ain't no such thing as a bad champion. Every wrestler you meet is the best in the world.*

He looked across the ring and saw a man wearing a mask. *Can't ever tell what a man has on his mind when he's got a mask on.* Then he remembered that his friend Mil Mascaras, one of the greatest wrestlers in history, also wore a mask. So did Mr. Wrestling II, another legend. *Can't tell whether these guys wear a mask because they wanna be like II and Mil, or because they've got something to hide.*

The Punisher had something to hide: He never really won the Texas



As The Punisher gets back in the ring, Kerry slaps the clawhold on him (above).



Punisher looks to rebound off the ropes after stopping Kerry's charge (right).

## A Champion Again:

# KERRY VON

*night of*

# REDEMP



title. On October 5 in Brownwood, Texas, Punisher was supposed to wrestle Eric Embry for the belt. The only problem was that Embry had been nearly blinded by Billy Travis and Skandor Akbar a week before and couldn't get clearance from his doctors to wrestle. Embry was forced to forfeit the match and the belt, and Punisher was the new champ.

A fraud, that's what he is. And that was Kerry's fatal thought. It caused a brief letdown and allowed Punisher to gain more of an advan-

On October 20 at The Sportatorium in Dallas, Kerry Von Erich won the USWA Texas title from The Punisher. Afterward, Kerry sat down with *Inside Wrestling* and reflected on his deepest thoughts before, during, and after the match, offering a unique perspective on a unique man



# ERICH'S TION

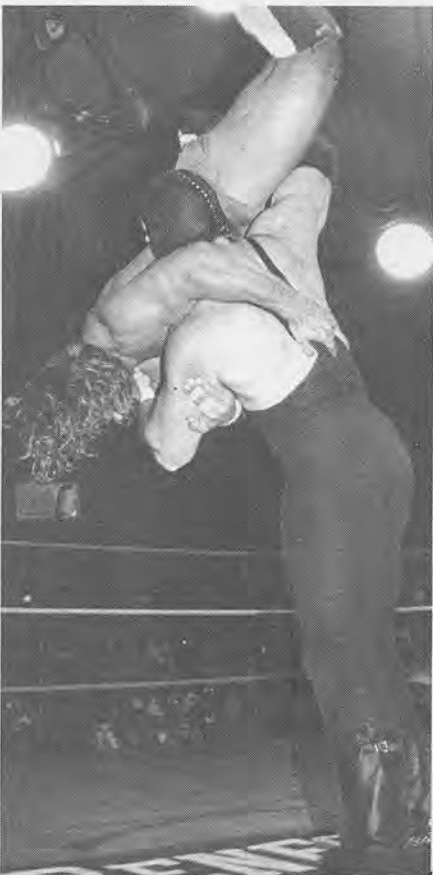
Photos by Buddy Myers

tage than he deserved. The bell rang and Kerry quickly found himself in trouble. *Gotta stay with it. Gotta get my thought train back. Wanna put this punk away as quickly as possible.*

But the match went on ... and on ... and on. Years ago, Kerry might have put away The Punisher in three or four minutes. That was before the motorcycle accident that nearly crippled him for life and dramatically limited the amount of punishment his ankles could withstand. That was before the pain and anguish and mental stress caused by the death of his brothers David and Mike. Sometimes, he'd climb into the ring and silently devote a match to David or Mike.

*This one I've gotta do for myself. This is for me.*

The match lasted more than 30 minutes; the key word was "clothesline." Kerry would floor Punisher with a devastating clothesline. Punisher would respond with a more vicious clothesline. Then Kerry would come back with another, then Punisher again. It went on and on.



Punisher knees Kerry in the midsection (above) and slams him (bottom left). Kerry comes back with a slam of his own (right). Despite his popularity, Kerry says he doesn't feel right unless he has a belt around his waist. That's why it was so important for him to win the Texas title.

Finally, however, Kerry's superior wrestling skills took over. *We're letting this get out of hand. This is the way he wants the match to go. Wrestle him and he doesn't stand a chance.* That's exactly what happened and, finally, Punisher was finished. Kerry rolled him up for the pin and the Texas title.

"At that point, I just went blank," Kerry said. "The crowd started cheering, I saw Akbar getting angry, and they gave me the belt. Boy, it felt great to have that belt wrapped around my waist. To me, it means a new beginning. It means that I've still got it in me and I can win a title."

"Listen, I'll admit I was a little tentative at the start, but I was trying to break out of a slump. That's why I wanted the title so badly. I've been through a lot over the past year, but this made all the sweat and hard work worth it. People say that Eric

Embry is the future of Texas wrestling. Well, there's room for both of us."

For the past year, the shift of Texas wrestling has been toward Embry. He captured the fans' collective imagination and became a hero. He saved the federation from Akbar and Tojo Yamamoto. He brought a touch of freshness to the area. But the Von Erichs represent tradition, and there's no reason why tradition and innovation can't stand together.

"There'll always be Von Erichs in Texas wrestling," Kerry said. "It's a fact of life."

On this night, Kerry Von Erich reaffirmed the facts while reaffirming his own life. □





# THIS MONTH IN...

## **THE Wrestler**



Can **STING** keep **LEX LUGER** away from **RIC FLAIR'S** NWA World title?



**HULK HOGAN'S** WWF World title reign is in turmoil because of **BAD NEWS BROWN!**

### PLUS . . .

**RICK MARTEL**—a model of evil! . . . **TERRY GORDY** is a **FREEBIRD** spy! . . . Has **BRUCE HART** been abandoned by his own family? . . . **ANDRE THE GIANT** steps into the "Spotlight" . . . "Q & A" interview with **NIKITA KOLOFF**

All this and much more . . .  
in the February 1990 issue of  
*The Wrestler*

**ON SALE NOW!**

## **PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED**



Where will **HULK HOGAN** be in 1990?  
Five ex-champions look ahead!



**LEX LUGER'S** holiday gift for **RIC FLAIR** may be that the "Total Package" takes the NWA World title!

### PLUS . . .

A **FULL-COLOR** pinup plus career bio of **BRET HART** . . . An exclusive "Press Conference" with **WOMAN** . . . How **CURT HENNIG** beat **BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**—before the match! . . . **DEMOLITION** and **THE ROAD WARRIORS** square off in the **PWI** Dream Tag Tourney Final—**YOU** decide who wins!

All this and much more . . .  
in the February 1990 edition of  
*Pro Wrestling Illustrated*

**ON SALE NOW!**

**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One on One**

**“B**ETTER TO HAVE loved and lost than never to have loved at all,” it is said. But try telling that to Rick Steiner. He’s the guy with the downcast eyes that won’t go near a woman anymore because of the shame he feels over the most painful episode of his life: his love affair with Robin Green.

Woman. Soft, evil, seductive. Once she was frumpy and innocent; she even wore horn-rimmed glasses. She pounded Steiner like no male opponent ever had.

At first, she was an interested fan waiting to meet Rick and get his autograph. Robin Green caught Steiner’s interest and captured his heart. It was wrestling’s love affair of the decade.

Then Robin started to change. When Steiner and NWA announcer Jim Ross showed up at her apartment, they were greeted by a noticeably different Robin: The glasses were gone, the hair was teased, and she was dressed in a seductive black leather outfit.

But Rick didn’t see a changed woman. He saw the same old Robin he fell in love with. So, he made an appointment with Robin to ask her “a very important question.” Rick wasn’t ready for their scheduled rendez-vous, so he sent Scott to meet her. Scott was met by a pair of masked thugs, who dragged him into Robin’s limo and gave him a beating.

Woman soon let the world know she was fooling Rick all along, just using him as part of her plan to make

# ONE ON ONE



*“I can’t believe you’re the same person as Robin. I can’t believe that anyone so evil could appear to be so sweet. I mean, it’s just not right!”*

—Rick Steiner

her mark on wrestling and reveal her new tag team: Doom.

As Woman succeeded in making her mark on wrestling, Rick is shattered. He still wants an explanation for what happened. *Inside Wrestling* gave him the chance to talk to his former love ... “One on One.”

## RICK STEINER:

Robin ... uh, Woman, I ... I still can’t believe ... I mean, how could you ... what would ever ... you’re evil, Woman, you’re downright evil!

## WOMAN:

You’re a jerk, Rick, just like all the other men ...

**RS:** All the other ... ?

**W:** What? Did you think you were the first? You’re just like every other man: egotistical, self-centered, but you don’t know what’s

going on right in front of your very eyes. Be serious, Rick, did you really believe that librarian getup? Can’t you see below the surface?

**RS:** But you were so ... what happened? I can’t believe you’re the same person as Robin. I can’t believe that anyone so evil could appear to be so sweet. I don’t ... I mean, it’s just not right!

**W:** Get this through your thick skull, buddy: Robin never existed. She was a figment of your imagination, some kind of innocent little plaything that you *hoped* existed. I’m sure there are plenty of girls like Robin out there, but they’re not me. They’re not Woman. I’m far too much for you to handle.

**RS:** Look, I don’t know why you want to destroy me and my brother. What have we ever done



# NONE



*"You're gonna have to learn the ways of the world in a hurry, and in this world, being a goody-two-shoes gets you nowhere."*

—Woman

to you? Why did you beat up Scott? Why are you sending Doom against us—with loaded masks, yet. What's with you? Why?

**W:** Because you're there. It's as simple as that, so why don't you face it. Nothing personal, honey, but you remind me of an old rag, perfect to wipe my hands on. When I was looking to break into the NWA, you seemed to be the perfect target. You've done nothing to me, and we beat up your brother because he happened to get in the way. And I'm sending Doom against you boys because the spotlight's on, the cameras are rolling, and we need a steppingstone.

**RS:** Let me tell you something, Robin . . . uh, Woman. Doom is doomed. Me and Scotty aren't

gonna be any steppingstones to anywhere for anyone. Everybody who saw "Halloween Havoc" saw how we completely dominated your team, and the only way Doom won was because one of your masked thugs hit me in the head with a piece of steel loaded in his mask.

**W:** Excuses, excuses. The fact of the matter is that *you* lost, we won, and Doom is rising through the NWA, shooting right to the top. I'll admit that my boys are a little inexperienced, but I'm gonna give them all the experience they need, and when that happens, we'll tear you boys to shreds. Here's one thing to remember, my boy: You and your brother are only the first step. We have bigger goals in sight. Within a few months, you'll only be a memory.

**RS:** There's an old saying, Woman. "Fool me twice . . ." No, wait, it's "Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me." Well, fool the NWA twice, shame on us all.

**W:** What are you babbling about?

**RS:** What I mean is that everyone in the NWA knows about you now. Sure, you fooled me, Robin Green and all that. But everyone knows what you are, and everyone's gonna be real careful about what you do from now on. Sure, you blindsided me, you suckered me in, but it's not gonna happen to anyone ever again. You've gotten as far as you'll ever get in the NWA, and there's plenty of good men around here who'll make sure of that.

**W:** You still don't get the picture, do you? If Doom and I just came into the NWA like any ordinary, run-of-the-mill tag team, we would've had to start at the bottom, wrestling all of these bums, then waste a year working our way to the top. But by using you, we hit paydirt right away. You and Scott are a step away from the World tag team title, and because we went right after you from the start, we're a step away, too. The only difference is that you had to waste a few years working your way up. Now that we're where we are, we don't need any help. Doom is indestructible, and we'll do the rest on our own.

**RS:** Doom isn't indestructible at all. We'll destroy 'em, me and Scotty, and then you'll be left with nothing, the same way you left me.

**W:** You know, Rick, you really weren't all that bad. You're cute, but you're also a little too innocent. You're gonna have to learn the ways of the world in a hurry, and in this world, being a goody-two-shoes gets you nowhere. Maybe one day, if you change, we can make a pretty good team.

**RS:** Forget it, Woman. I fell for your garbage once, and I learned my lesson. Anyone else who falls for you is in for more trouble than they bargained. Speaking of trouble, you and Doom'll be in a mess of it when me and Scotty are done with you. Believe it, Woman. □

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**FALL 1988/Color pinup:** Madusa Miceli. **Stories include:** Savage, Hyatt, Von Erich, Triple Dome, Demolition, Steamboat, Heenan, Lawler.

**WINTER 1988/Color pinup:** Randy Savage. **Stories include:** DiBiase, Flair, Duggan, Sting, Piper, Luger, Brody.

**SPRING 1989/Color pinup:** Rick Steamboat. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Lawler, Blazer, Sting, Ultimate-Hogan, Jake-Andre, Powers of Pain.

**SUMMER 1989/Color pinup:** Sting & Lex Luger. **Stories include:** Hogan, Von Erich, Sting & Ultimate, Warriors, Nikita, Luger.

## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 7)

ember 1989). I have been a skating and wrestling fan since 1971, and although my favorite sport is RollerGames (wrestling is number two), I feel fans of one will enjoy the other, too. Once again, thanks for the kind words about RollerGames. This is one fan who will be buying each and every issue of the new magazine.

BILL NAGY  
Pittsburgh

### ZBYSZKO AS CHAMP

As time goes on, all the good that Jerry Lawler did for the AWA World title is disappearing because of all the bad Larry Zbyszko is doing. Nick Bockwinkel, Stan Hansen, and Rick Martel were great World champions. Even Curt Hennig was passable, although by that time people had started to ignore the AWA. Lawler brought it back into the national spotlight. Zbyszko can't imagine how much harm he's doing.

LARRY STARK  
Ballwin, MO



Larry Zbyszko chinlocks Sgt. Slaughter. In reader Fred Stanikowitz' opinion, Zbyszko will be AWA champion for a long time.

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Rick Steiner makes Lex Luger look stupid with a roundhouse right.



Larry Zbyszko has now held the AWA World title for almost a year. He has defended the title against all challengers and has even gone against wrestlers from other federations, just like Lawler did. I don't understand why people are tearing him apart. Maybe they just can't handle the fact that Zbyszko is champion. Well, it's a fact of life, and it's going to be for a long time.

FRED STANIKOWITZ  
Marion, OH

### CALL ME STUPID

Excuse me if not everyone can look like Lex Luger ("Lex Luger: Rick Steiner Is The Dumbest Man Alive," December 1989). The facts are that Steiner is a wrestler, not a muscle-bound geek, and he knows how to *wrestle*, not just throw his weight around and break the rules.

Maybe Rick doesn't have women at his feet like Luger does, but he has something more important: sensitivity outside the ring and talent inside the ring.

BEVERLY RIGGINS  
South Bend, IN

The only thing that makes Rick Steiner stupid is his trust in people that are totally untrustworthy. Of course, that's what makes him the "Dogfaced Gremlin." Like dogs (man's best friend), Steiner never thinks that somebody will do him wrong. Of course, Woman did him wrong, Lex Luger called him names, and now Steiner's learning little by little about that evil

little emotion called hatred.

Woman and Luger should be ashamed of themselves. Steiner is as harmless as can be. He poses a threat to nobody. He just gets in the ring, wrestles by the rules, and respects the sport. Too bad there aren't more men like him in wrestling. It would be a far better sport.

WALLY CODPIE  
Waterloo, IA □

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Inside  
**Wrestling**

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The fascinating "Decade in Review" issue of *Inside Wrestling* is covered March 1990 and goes on sale January 16.

*It's sure to be a  
newsstand sellout, so  
get yours early!*

## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

hurting until later.”

Young's actions were nothing short of heroic. If the fire had spread, Muta, Sting, Flair, Funk, and designated cornermen Gary Hart and Ole Anderson could have been trapped inside. The Civic Center was nearly packed. And this might sound pretty stupid, but all large fires were small fires at one point. Most forest fires start with a dropped match.

“You know, I saw Tommy up there trying to swat out the fire with his bare hands and I thought, ‘Man, that guy is crazy,’” Flair said. “You just don’t put out fires with your bare hands, but Tommy was right up there doing it.”

“Referees aren’t my kind of people,” Hart said, “but I really admire him for what he did.”

Young is one referee always worthy of admiration. Back in 1986, Young was accused by the fans and some wrestlers of being biased toward Flair. I remember one match at Veterans Stadium—it was during the Great American Bash tour—when Road Warrior Hawk wrestled Flair. Young was inadvertently knocked to the Stadium floor, at which time Hawk covered Flair for an apparent pin. Young crawled back into the ring and seemed to make the three-count, but then gave the match to Flair by disqualification.

The crowd was irate. I’ve never seen Hawk madder. Paul Ellering protested to NWA officials. Young explained that when he pounded his hands on the mat, everybody thought he was making the three-count, but he was actually trying to get back into the ring. The explanation seemed shady, but over the past three years, Young has proven himself to be beyond reproach.

Tommy Young is the best referee in the sport.

A Triple Dome of Terror match



When the special “Halloween Havoc” cage caught on fire, Tommy Young put out the blaze with his bare hands (above). Among the important matches Young has officiated was the one in which Ric Flair regained the NWA World title from Rick Steamboat (below).



was held at the 1988 Bash in which three cages were set up on the ring: a large cage covering the entire ring on the bottom, a smaller cage in the middle, and a still smaller cage on top. At the top of the highest cage—some 40

feet above the ring—was a trap door that had to be opened and closed to allow the wrestlers entrance.

The man in charge of the door was Young. There he was, way above the arena floor, perched on



top of a cage that shook precariously and seemed in danger of toppling over. If anybody was going to get hurt, it was Young. He knew this beforehand, but he accepted the assignment because it was part of his job.

"Heck, I volunteered for it," Young said. "That was a big match and it was historic, and I wanted to be there. Same thing went with the Thunderdome match, but Bruno Sammartino was asked to be guest referee. The big matches don't only mean something to the wrestlers, they mean something to us, too. It's an honor to get the big matches."

As recently as last year, Young was accused of helping Flair save his NWA World title. Now that Flair is a fan favorite, we don't hear these accusations anymore. The reason is simple: When the fans hated Flair, they looked for every reason to put down his title reign. Young was an available scapegoat, but he wasn't to blame.

Young officiates every match the same way. He works fairly and by the book. He tries to keep matters under control, but he knows that at some point, you have to let the wrestlers go at it. He also only has two eyes and can't see everything that happens, especially when managers and outside interference becomes a factor.

"To me, the proof of my competence is that I'm still here and I'm still getting the big matches," Young said. "The NWA went through a change of ownership, a lot of people left, but I'm still here. Believe me, it hurt when I was accused of being biased, but I've learned to stop listening to what other people say. If you guys ever tried to rate the most popular referees, there wouldn't be one name on the list."

Young, however, knows where he stands. He is a credit to the sport. ☐

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## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)

### vor Series Team—*Believe It Or Not!*

On the face of it, this entry seems patently absurd. The only hatchet buried in this feud appears in Jimmy Snuka's lurid fantasies of revenge—buried in Roddy Piper's thick Scottish head. Five years ago, Piper surprised Snuka on "Piper's Pit" by clocking him over the noggin with a coconut. Few who witnessed the attack will ever forget the sickening crunch of skull and shell and, more significantly, the thorough humiliation the Fiji native suffered by the symbolic attack on his heritage. Though he would return to the ring—and several showdowns against Piper—he never gained the measure of revenge he felt was his due.

Now, from the WWF Big Top, Piper, drafting a team for the upcoming Survivor Series, issues the following: "I thought, *I'm gonna get the craziest people I can find ... Who is one of the toughest guys I ever wrestled? Snuka. He still hates me. I don't blame him. That ain't the point. The point is survival.*"

Piper and Snuka wrestling side by side? It'll happen ... the same day Palestinians invite Israelis over for Sunday dinner ... the same day Dusty Rhodes squeezes into size-32 Levis ... the same day Hulk Hogan uses a comb.

Predicting the renewal of this tempest is like guessing the sun will rise in the morning. "I wouldn't take any action on the feud," laughed One-Eyed Ira, a bookmaker known to accept bets on the weather. "If ever there was a lock in American sports, this is it. Once inside the ring, instincts will take over."

To which I can add only one thing: Though he spent time in



Roddy Piper rocks back on Jimmy Snuka, pushing his neck against the ropes. Piper and Snuka feuded so violently five years ago that Eddie Ellner refuses to believe they could be good teammates at the Survivor Series.

Hollywood, Roddy Piper is nobody's dummy. His survival instincts remain sharp and alert. Which is why Snuka should enter the Survivor Series with his eyes clear, his ears wax-free, and his fists clenched.

●  
**News Item: Soultaker Annihilates "The King."**

Bill Apter and Jerry Lawler are old friends. My advice, Bill, is to suggest to Mr. Lawler that he retire before a terrible accident occurs. It's not him I'm worried about. On one of his frequent journeys head-first out of the ring, he may crash into an innocent ringside fan or hot dog vendor and injure them. □



## ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 20)

U.S.A. It sounded like a trailer for *Halloween VI. He's Back ... And Liz Hunter's Got Him*. Liz Hunter did have him, live from Japan—in an exclusive every wrestling journalist in the country would kill for. Sometimes it's not so bad to sit home on Friday night.

"What are you doing? Why are you leaving Japan? How's Emma Lou?"

"Take it easy, will ya, Liz? I'm gonna tell you everything. I'm comin' home to right the wrongs. I'm gonna set things straight."

For those wrestling fans living in Tibet, I should point out that after Hansen lost his AWA title (stolen from him, he will tell you), he packed up his house and moved to Japan. There he enjoyed unprecedented success for an American wrestler, capturing both the PWF singles and tag team titles (with Bruiser Brody). He and Tenryu recently captured the All-Japan tag team championship. Against heightened Japanese competition, Hansen chiseled a formidable legend. He was venerated throughout the Island Nation. Now he was returning home to right some wrongs? Perhaps he was just homesick.

"Tired of sushi, Stan? Miss some old-fashioned Texas beef?" It felt funny to call Hansen "Stan," but "The Man," which he preferred, sounded even weirder.

"Nah, I like it just fine over here. They pay me boatloads of money to beat their people up. They treat me like a king and Emma Lou likes the climate. The kids can speak Japanese and they all know karate. It's a damn paradise over here.

"Reason I'm coming back is cuz I got tired of being mistreated by the American press—especially by your magazines."

"But Stan, since you've been overseas, we've barely written

anything about you."

"My point exactly!" he thundered. "I read the magazines. I'm beating the best competition in the world. Hell, Tenryu and Baba and Tsuruta would murder anybody you got in the States. Hogan. Luger. Steamboat. They'd get themselves killed in the same ring. I'm kicking Japanese butt everyday, taking every title they got, and I can't even crack the *PWF* Top 10. It's a damn joke."

I started to say something, but Hansen wasn't nearly finished.

American like Hansen wrestling predominantly overseas—been able to crack the Top 10. "I'm going to raise that issue at the next editorial meeting, Stan," I assured him.

"You can stick your editorial meetings where the sun don't shine. I'm comin' home and proving my point in person. U.S. grapplers have had it too easy for too long. The Man has been away. Now he's back and he's mad. Go tell all your little readers the news. That's all. EMMA LOU! Get the



When Hansen wrestles Kamala, it's almost a certainty that the action will spill out of the ring. In this case, the two battle it out at the Garden State Racetrack in New Jersey.

"You guys claim to cover wrestling around the world. Big time international journalists. Hah! A laugh! Your readers don't even know what's going on in Japan. I guess that's because there ain't no animals in the ring and none of the wrestlers deliver pizza. Over here they wrestle. You obviously forgot that's what the sport was about."

I was speechless. The truth is Hansen was right. Rarely, if ever, has a Japanese wrestler—or an

hell over here and talk to your friend. I've said my piece."

Emma Lou and I covered old times, traded recipes and soap opera plots—swapped women things at \$3 a minute. It was nice to speak to her, don't get me wrong. But only one thing mattered. The Butcher from Borger will be around until he has to go back and defend the tag team belts with Tenryu. And wrestling here won't be the same while he stays. □

# JIMMY SNUKA

(Continued from page 31)



Snuka flips Hennig out of the ring (above) and gives him a spinecrusher (below). "Superfly" could not score a pin on Hennig, but he has wrestled impressively.



makes him very proud," said a training partner. "Brody was a hero to most wrestlers, but Jimmy was especially fond of him. There is a lot of Brody embodied in Jimmy Snuka."

Is Snuka's new image a direct result of his admiration for Brody? How much has Brody's caustic brand of hell-raising influenced Snuka's wrestling style? Defenders of Brody rip Snuka for pandering to the WWF's carnival

philosophies. Snapped one of Brody's old friends, "Snuka's Fiji Island dance may excite the fans, but it kills any comparison to Brody. Bruiser Brody never danced for his money. He kicked butt."

But wait. Snuka is doing *that* too! Take away the accessories—the howl, the dance, the wild, menacing eyes—and he is still Jimmy Snuka.

"Frankly," says Bill Apter, who has watched Snuka closely since his rookie campaign in 1969, "there isn't a whole lot of difference. I think these gimmicks will make Snuka a more dangerous and effective wrestler than he already is. While his opponents are preoccupied with his dance and his howl, Jimmy will be in midair about to deliver a splash. For years, Snuka was purely a physical wrestler without much psychological subtlety to his game. Now he's older and wiser, but more crafty than ever. He can become a real force in the WWF."

One man who still believes in Snuka's remarkable powers is the man responsible for Snuka's worst injury. Remember "Piper's Pit"? Remember Roddy Piper's interview with Jimmy Snuka? Remember the coconut? Apparently Snuka doesn't. Many at the time feared that Piper's coconut smash, symbolizing an attack on the "Superfly's" Polynesian heritage, would have a devastating psychological effect on Snuka's career. Snuka eventually

recovered, but he was never able to exact full revenge against Piper.

Today, Piper is also back in the WWF. And, in a move that renders the bizarre normal, the crazy Scot has chosen Snuka to be his Survivor Series teammate.

"I thought, *I'm gonna get the craziest people I can find*," Piper said on *Prime Time Wrestling*. "Who is one of the toughest guys I ever fought? Snuka. He still hates me. I don't blame him. That ain't the point. The point is survival."

"Piper may be making a big mistake," Apter cautions. "In the movies, a director yells 'Cut!' and the good guys join the bad guys for a beer in the commissary. Wrestlers nurse their grudges like mother bears guarding their cubs. I don't think Snuka has ever forgotten the pain, embarrassment, and humiliation of that incident. He has said in the past that it would haunt him forever. Perhaps Piper has forgotten how dangerous an enemy Snuka can be. And remember: This time around, Piper doesn't have Bob Orton or Paul Orndorff to protect him. If Snuka's howling now, wait till he catches Piper off his guard. It'll be interesting to watch how it unfolds."

In fact, Snuka may be so preoccu-

Snuka breaks out of Steve Lombardi's headlock (below). Incredibly, Snuka agreed to team with Roddy Piper, his old nemesis, at the Survivor Series.







Snuka is anxious for Lombardi to get back in the ring. There is a method to Snuka's madness; he desperately wants to win a WWF championship.

pied by his eventual showdown with Piper that it has taken his mind from the task at hand—a vicious feud against “Mr. Perfect” Curt Hennig. Using Snuka as a final steppingstone to Hulk Hogan, Hennig encountered some difficulty and had to use the ropes for leverage to gain consecutive pinfall victories.

“Snuka should have known better,” said one ring veteran. “He’s been around too long to fall for that stunt.”

Instead, Snuka took out his frustration the next night at the expense of “Brooklyn Brawler” Steve Lombardi. Snuka dizzied Lombardi with a drop-kick sandwiched between twin suplexes. A trademark splash from the top turnbuckle sent Lombardi fleeing back to Flatbush Avenue. Snuka gave a victory howl and treated the crowd to an extended Fiji dance. Though he was whooping it up, all laughs and smiles, his eyes remained strangely impassive.

“That’s Snuka’s new trademark,” Apter points out. “Those eyes, you must watch his eyes. While the rest of him dances, they just glare. There’s trouble in those eyes. They are the eyes of a madman.”

Someone should tell Roddy Piper. ☐

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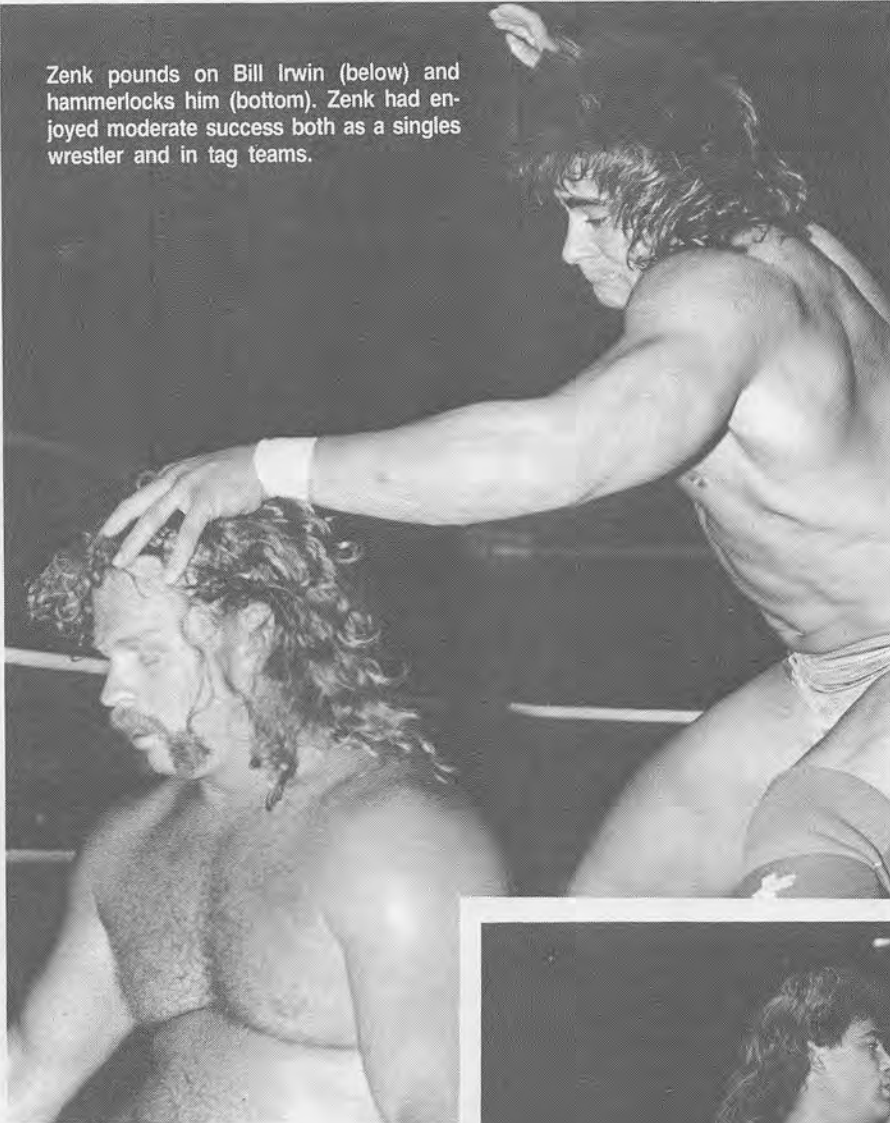
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## "Z-MAN" TOM ZENK

(Continued from page 33)

Zenk pounds on Bill Irwin (below) and hammerlocks him (bottom). Zenk had enjoyed moderate success both as a singles wrestler and in tag teams.



Flair proved it, Rick Steamboat proved it, and Brian Pillman is proving it now.

Rather than issue a brash challenge to Lex, Zenk should go about his business quietly, working his way up the ladder of title contention to the number-one spot. Most importantly, he must learn not to become frustrated so easily. He might be the AWA World champion today if he hadn't been so impatient in his pursuit of Larry Zbyszko's belt.

### GO AFTER THE TV TITLE

**Bob Smith:** Zenk should set his sights a bit lower and go after The Great Muta's TV belt. If you think about it, it's a more realistic goal. Muta is closer to his size. Since neither man has an edge in strength, Zenk can

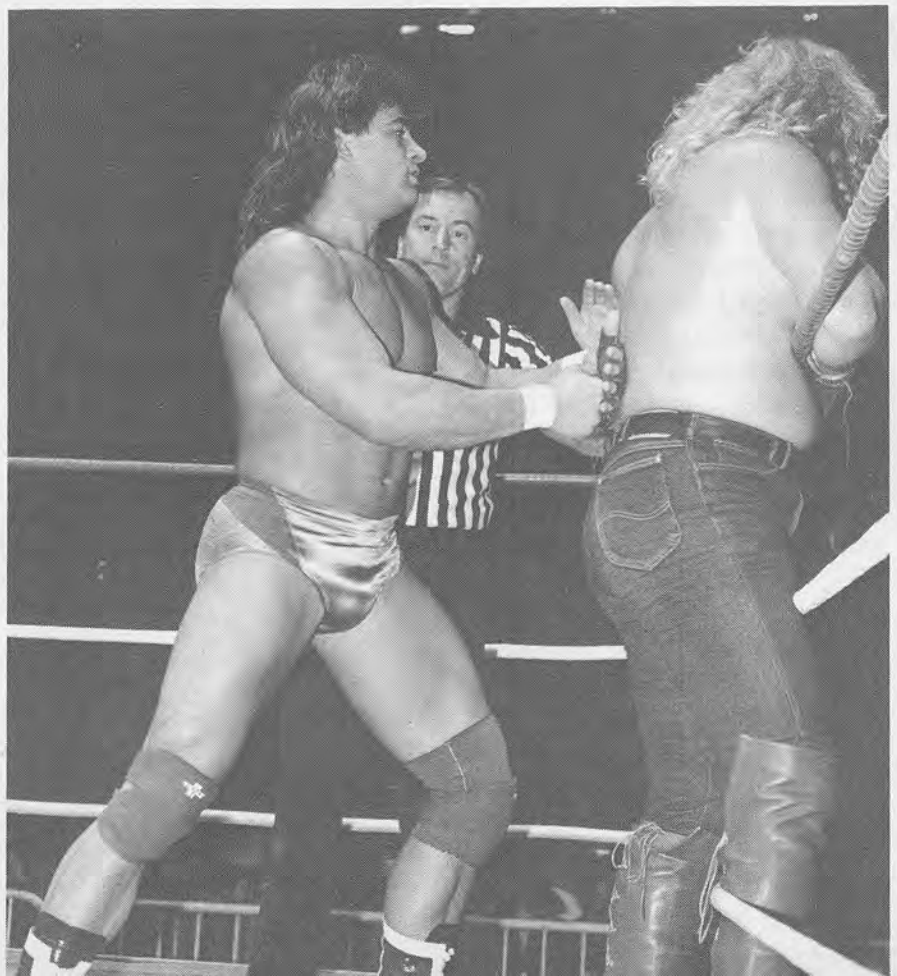
concentrate on pure wrestling and not worry about being outmuscled.

Imagine the excitement that would be generated by a Zenk-Muta feud. These two are among the sport's finest technical wrestlers, so they'd put on quite a display of dazzling maneuvers. The feud would almost surely increase Zenk's popularity. And whether he wins the TV belt or not, that added fan support would give him leverage in negotiating for U.S. and even World title shots.

More than being the NWA's number-three championship, the TV title is a steppingstone to greater rewards, and it's Tom Zenk's best opportunity for success.

### GET A MANAGER

**Andy Rodriguez:** I suspect this is the one suggestion Zenk will reject immediately, but it's an option he should seriously consider. Not all managers are conniving, lowlife cheats; look at how Jim Cornette cleaned up his own act.







Irwin sets up Zenk for a spinecrusher. Zenk has a natural distrust for managers, but if he wants to be a champion, he may need one.

A good manager is there every day, giving his wrestler constant guidance and encouragement. He gets you those title shots you deserve. He celebrates your victories, and comforts you in defeat. When you're on top, he doesn't let your head get too big, and when you hit bottom, he reminds you of the old saying: "There's nowhere to go but up."

Of course, if Zenk had a manager, he wouldn't have to worry about interference by men like Gary Hart and Oliver Humperdink. That may be the best reason of all to have someone in your corner. The NWA is a rough place; if Zenk wants to get a fair shake, he needs a manager. ☐

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## RUDE VS. PIPER

(Continued from page 35)

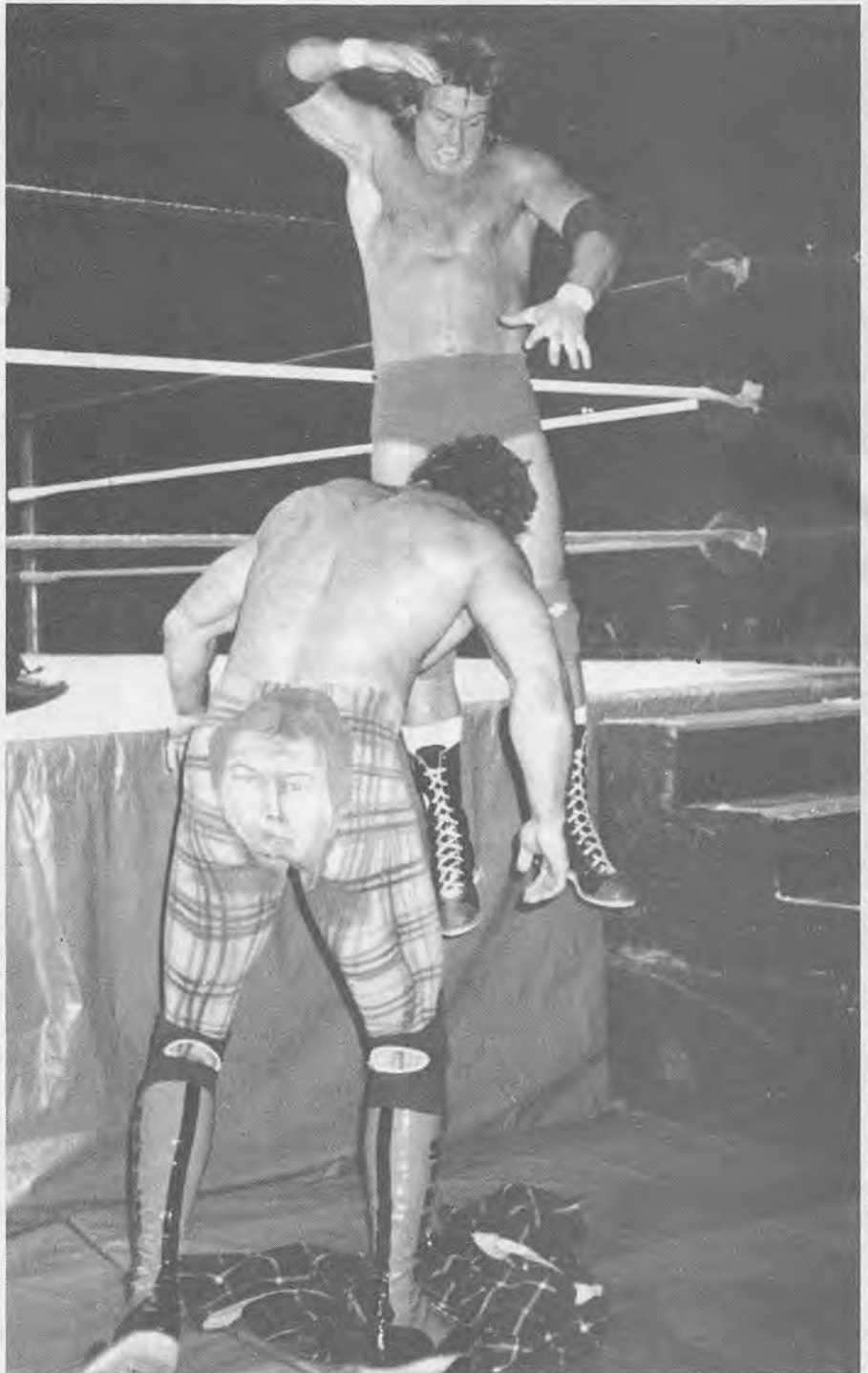
Later, however, during the same card, the same woman nearly passed out with excitement after a similar embrace by Piper. When asked by Piper why she walked away from Rude, the young lady replied that she couldn't stand Rude's awful case of halitosis. Rude reportedly ripped apart the rulebreakers' dressing room in anger after Piper and the young beauty left the ring arm-in-arm.

Was this woman an exception to the rule, or is Piper truly the WWF's new sex symbol? According to many wrestling faithful, the contest is over. Piper may have already replaced Rude as the federation's standard-bearer for masculinity.

"Rude can swivel his hips all he wants, but Piper leaves that egomaniac in the dirt," said Sheila Denton, a 25-year-old regular at Boston Garden WWF cards. "Piper's a better wrestler, too, and he proves it to Rude every time they lock up. But the reason Piper is better-looking boils down to this: He's *naturally* sexy. He doesn't need to wear skin-tight trunks or put on ridiculous kissing diplays to turn me on. All he needs to do is *glance* at me, and I melt like butter."

The Piper-Rude feud is reaching the meltdown stage as well. The rivalry between these two headstrong competitors began when Rude made an unscheduled appearance on USA Network's *Prime Time Wrestling*. After a verbal war of words, Piper and Rude nearly got into a fistfight, and only a group of cameramen prevented the two wrestlers from ripping the television studio apart.

The worst was yet to come, however. When Rude took on The Ultimate Warrior in defense of his Intercontinental title at SummerSlam '89, Piper made an impromptu appearance at ringside. After he lifted his kilt and mooned the champion,



Piper pounces on Rude from the ring apron. Rude's plaid tights with Piper's face on the back angered the rowdy Scot. Piper has become wildly popular, while Rude is more vilified than he ever was.

Rude could no longer concentrate on his match. At that point, it was academic that the Warrior would regain the I-C belt.

Since then, Piper and Rude have battled at WWF arenas across the country, tearing at each other with unbridled fury. Rude has lost many

of these bouts by disqualification, but what *really* is bothering him is how many women are reacting to him since Piper arrived on the scene. At a host of recent cards, Rude ordered the sound man to "cut the music" so he could introduce his removal of his ring robe,



but fans are drowning out his announcement by chanting "Piper! Piper!" in unison. The cheers are being led by the ladies in the audience.

"Piper is twice as sexy as Rude has ever dreamed of being," said Audrey Robbins of Los Angeles. "He proved it when he starred in that science-fiction movie *They Live* last year. How many wrestlers could leave the sport and become a leading man the way he did? I'll bet that greasy Rude can't act his way out of a paper bag."

He might not be a great thespian, but Rude continues to be one of the sneakiest competitors in the WWF. At a Brother Love segment in Portland, Maine, Piper was being interviewed by the rotund reverend when he decided he would "clean up" Love's act a bit. He smeared toothpaste and shampoo on Love, but Rude sneak-attacked Piper, ending the unscheduled cleansing. Rude spit burning mouthwash into Piper's eyes, and used the occasion to beat Piper unmercifully until help arrived.

"That proved why Piper is better than Rude," said Robbins. "Even during his rulebreaking days, Piper would never blindside his enemies like that. But Piper proved how tough he was by wrestling against Rude just a few days later."

And Piper is proving that his popularity hasn't waned a bit despite a layoff of more than two years. When Piper battled Rude at New York's Madison Square Garden on September 30, the famed arena was completely sold out. Many of those who attended were female fans, lusting to get a look at the returning Scotsman.

"He's still the best," said Lani Smith of Brooklyn, clad in an aging "Hot Rod" T-shirt. "He's tearing Rude up the same way he tears up my heart. Sure, he's a little crazy, but I'm crazy, too—crazy for Roddy. I just know he could be the Intercontinental or World champion if he put his mind to it." ☐

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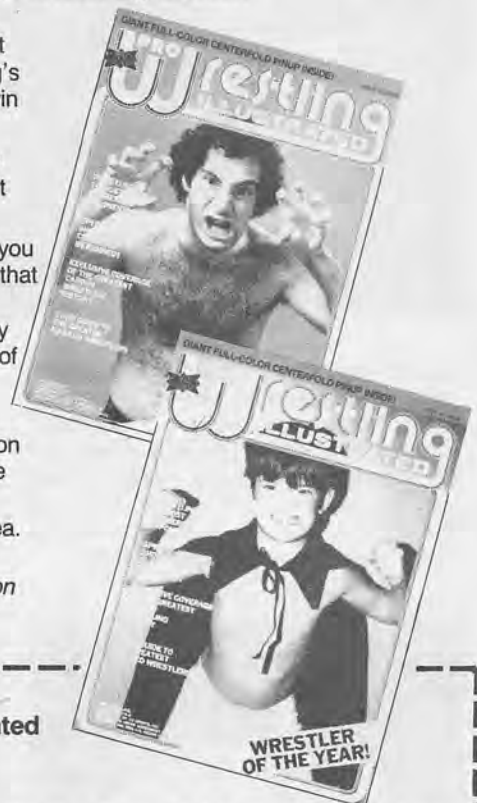
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# WARRIORS VS. SKYSCRAPERS

(Continued from page 37)



Spivey whips Hawk across the ring (above). Vicious is about to flip Hawk to the canvas (right). Hawk holds Spivey in a side headlock (below). When The Skyscrapers and their manager, Teddy Long, started claiming that they would be the ones to knock off the Warriors, Hawk and Animal realized they had a great challenge ahead of them.



Indeed, they are a team brought together by rookie manager Teddy Long for the purpose of making his first impact on the NWA. And what an impact they've made! The team is comprised of two men at different points in their careers. Vicious, the youngster, had paid his dues. He went through several federations, proved his ability in a series of matches against Kerry Von Erich, and honed his skills during a long tour



of Japan.

Spivey, too, has wrestled extensively in Japan, but his career had been bogged down before the pairing with Vicious. He is a member of that not-so-exclusive roster of men who have been called "the next Hulk Hogan," only to get drowned in a tidal wave of Hulkamania. It took him years—and an ill-fated term with Kevin Sullivan's Varsity Club—to get on the right career course, a

course that led to an improbable pairing with another "next Hulk Hogan" nominee: Vicious.

"I knew from the start that Sid and Danny belonged together," Teddy Long said. And, indeed, The Skyscrapers trampled every opponent they faced *before* running into The Road Warriors.

But The Legion of Doom poses a different problem.

The September 21 match in Savannah was indecisive. Two days later, in Richmond, Virginia, Animal battled Sid Vicious in a one-on-one match and was on the verge of a pin after three minutes when Long interfered and caused his man's disqualification.

On October 8 in Atlanta, The Skyscrapers scored an unsatisfying victory by disqualification, although the Warriors dominated most of the match. The same thing happened one week later in Baltimore: The Warriors dominated, Long interfered, Ellering grabbed a set of keys away from Long, and The Skyscrapers won by disqualification.

Even the "Halloween Havoc" showdown on October 28 was an exercise in frustration for The Skyscrapers, who have scored important victories over The Dynamic Dudes, Scott and Rick Steiner, and The Midnight Express. When it comes down to the truly important matches against the Warriors, Vicious and Spivey can't seem to get the job done.

Not for lack of trying, however. At "Halloween Havoc," Vicious and Spivey came at the Warriors with a ferocious attack that showed no signs of tentativeness or fear. It's rare that a team shows absolutely no apprehension when facing the Warriors, but Vicious and Spivey seemed eager to leap into the ring.

"This is what we live for," Vicious said, "and when we take care of the Warriors, there's gonna be no doubt who's the best team in the world."



"They're on top now, we can't deny that," Spivey said, "but that's what makes this battle so important. We gotta knock them off, and until we can do that, we haven't proven a thing. The Warriors aren't just another team. They've transcended titles. They've made it to the top here and in Japan. If we're gonna make it to the top, they're gonna have to be the victims. And let me tell you something, they're gonna be the victims."



Vicious pulls Hawk off the mat. The Skyscrapers know that if they win this feud, they'll be the sport's most feared team.

Animal and Hawk also understand the severity of the situation. When The Skyscrapers originally claimed they were about to become the greatest tag team in the world, alarms went off in the Warriors' heads. It said, *We're the greatest, and those punks are gonna have to prove otherwise against us.* The Skyscrapers, however, are hardly punks.

"We know what we're up against," Hawk said, "but these guys think they're a lot like us. Well, they're dead wrong. We grew up on the streets. We know some tricks we haven't even had to use, but if we have to use them, we will."

The Skyscrapers vs. The Road Warriors is no ordinary streetfight. It's the war to end them all. Right now, there's no end in sight. ☐

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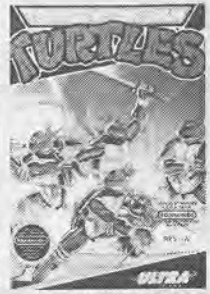
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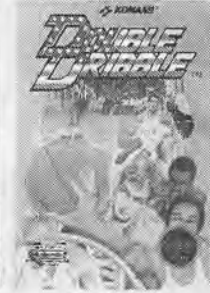
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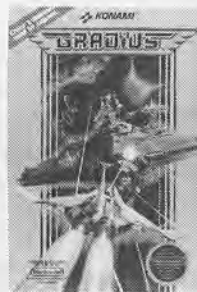
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## TOP 15

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NWA World champion
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**  
WWF World champion
- 3—**LEX LUGER**  
U.S. champion

- 4—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
WWF Intercontinental champion
- 5—**THE GREAT MUTA**  
NWA TV champion
- 6—**STING**  
No. 1 contender: NWA TV title
- 7—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
AWA World champion

- 8—**CURT HENNIG**  
No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 9—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
USWA Texas champion
- 10—**DENNIS CONDREY**  
CWF champion
- 11—**JERRY LAWLER**  
USWA champion

- 12—**RICK RUDE**  
No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title
- 13—**DUSTY RHODES**  
No. 4 contender: WWF title
- 14—**LARRY CAMERON**  
Stampede N. American champion
- 15—**BRIAN PILLMAN**  
No. 1 contender: U.S. title

## NWA

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**LEX LUGER**  
268, Chicago, IL
- 3—**THE GREAT MUTA**  
245, Tokyo, Japan

- 4—**TERRY FUNK**  
247, Amarillo, TX
- 5—**STING**  
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 6—**BRIAN PILLMAN**  
226, Cincinnati, OH
- 7—**STEVE WILLIAMS**  
265, Norman, OK

- 8—**TOM ZENK**  
237, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—**TOMMY RICH**  
248, Hendersonville, TN
- 10—**MIKE ROTUNDO**  
245, Syracuse, NY
- 11—**BUZZ SAWYER**  
240, St. Petersburg, FL

- 12—**EDDIE GILBERT**  
222, Lexington, TN
- 13—**SID VICIOUS**  
319, West Memphis, AK
- 14—**NORMAN THE LUNATIC**  
380, Saginaw, MI
- 15—**JIM GARVIN**  
260, Perry, GA

## AWA

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**GREG GAGNE**  
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 3—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Parris Island, SC

- 4—**JONNIE STEWART**  
242, Pacific Palisades, CA
- 5—**PAUL DIAMOND**  
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 6—**BARON VON RASCHKE**  
271, W. Berlin, Germany
- 7—**THE RUSSIAN BRUTE**  
285, Moscow, Russia

- 8—**KOKINA MAXIMUS**  
340, Samoa
- 9—**AKIO SATO**  
238, Tokyo, Japan
- 10—**TOMMY JAMMER**  
265, St. Joseph, MO
- 11—**DAVID SAMMARTINO**  
240, Pittsburgh, PA

- 12—**MIKE GEORGE**  
265, St. Joseph, MO
- 13—**KEN PATERA**  
256, Portland, OR
- 14—**MIKE ENOS**  
252, Minneapolis, MN
- 15—**WAYNE BLOOM**  
266, Minneapolis, MN

## WWF

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
280, Queens, NY
- 3—**CURT HENNIG**  
235, Minneapolis, MN

- 4—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 5—**RODDY PIPER**  
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 6—**RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**  
273, San Francisco, CA

- 8—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 9—**DINO BRAVO**  
256, Montreal, Quebec
- 10—**JIMMY SNUKA**  
250, Fiji Islands
- 11—**BAD NEWS BROWN**  
280, New York, NY

- 12—**TED DIBIASE**  
247, Omaha, NB
- 13—**RON GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 14—**TERRY TAYLOR**  
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 15—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**  
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3—**RODDY PIPER**  
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular

- 4—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 5—**STING**  
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 6—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**  
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 7—**RICK STEINER**  
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular

- 8—**DUSTY RHODES**  
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 9—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
- 10—**ERIC EMBRY**  
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
- 11—**BRIAN PILLMAN**  
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular

- 12—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular
- 13—**TITO SANTANA**  
Last month: unrated
- 14—**OWEN HART**  
Last month: unrated
- 15—**CHRIS ADAMS**  
Last month: unrated

## MOST HATED

- 1—**RICK RUDE**  
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 2—**TERRY FUNK**  
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 3—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated

- 4—**LEX LUGER**  
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5—**THE GREAT MUTA**  
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 6—**ANDRE THE GIANT**  
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 7—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated

- 8—**JERRY LAWLER**  
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- 9—**CURT HENNIG**  
Last month: unrated
- 10—**SCOTTY THE BODY**  
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated
- 11—**GREG VALENTINE**  
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated

- 12—**DENNIS CONDREY**  
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated
- 13—**BAD NEWS BROWN**  
Last month: unrated
- 14—**P.Y. CHU-HI**  
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
- 15—**LARRY CAMERON**  
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**DEMOLITION**  
WWF World tag team champions
- 2—**MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN**  
NWA World tag team champions
- 3—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 4—**RICK & SCOTT STEINER**  
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 5—**THE SKYSCRAPERS**  
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title

- 6—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**  
No. 4 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 7—**MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**  
AWA World tag team champions
- 8—**TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**  
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 9—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**  
CWA tag team champions
- 10—**JIMMY GOLDEN & BRIAN LEE**  
CWF tag team champions

- 11—**THE DYNAMIC DUDES**  
No. 5 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 12—**THE BUSHWHACKERS**  
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 13—**THE ROCKERS**  
No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 14—**JEFF JARRETT & MATT BORNE**  
USWA tag team champions
- 15—**THE BLACKHARTS**  
Stampede International tag team champions



*These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .*

For period ended November 3, 1989

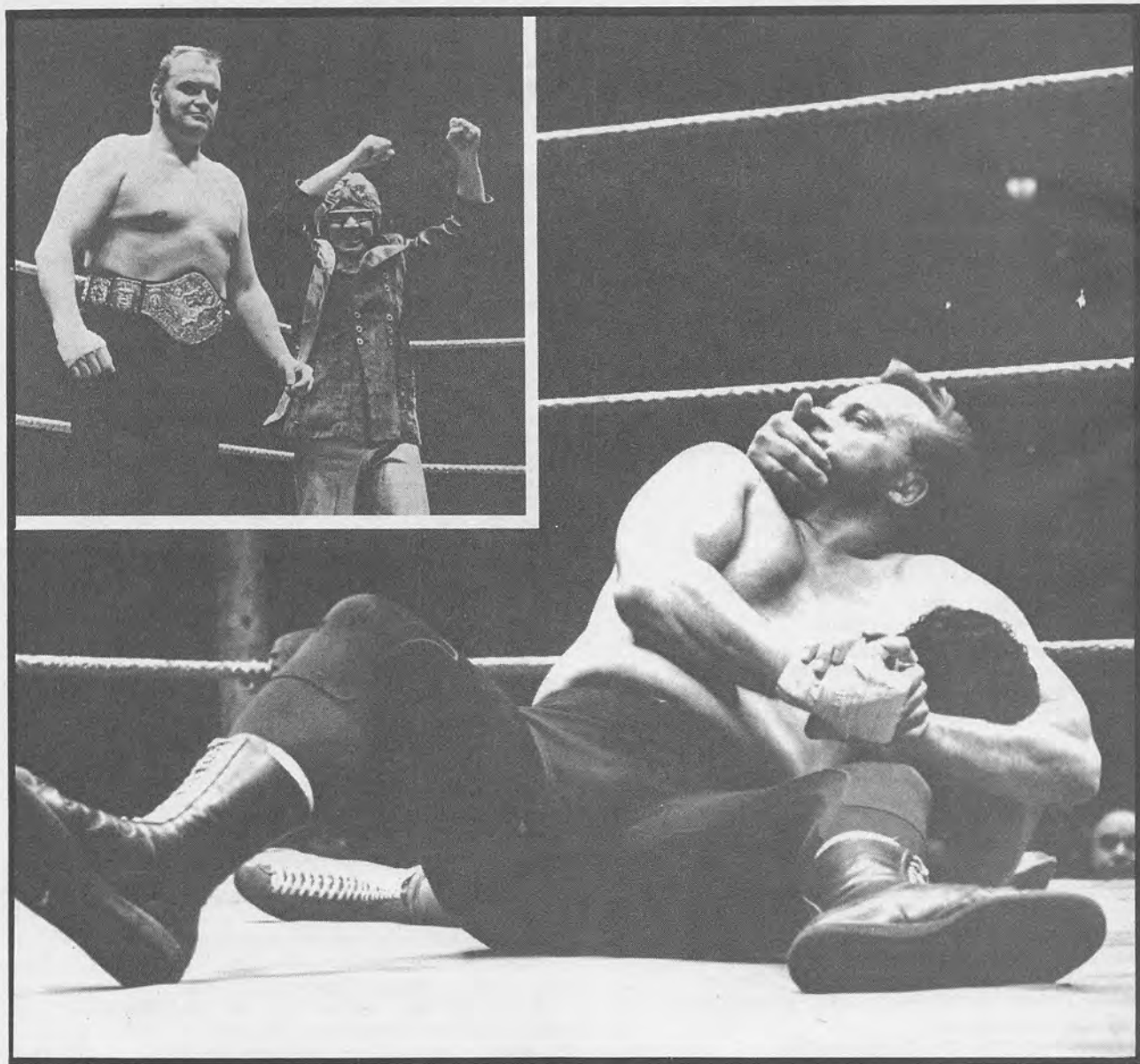
# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- \* **ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**TOSHIKAKI KAWADA & SAMSON FUYUKI**  
(October 20, 1989; from Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas; Nagoya, Japan)
- \* **ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**  
(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)
- \* **ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**GENICHIRO TENRYU & STAN HANSEN**  
(October 20, 1989; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu; Nagoya, Japan)
- \* **ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI**  
(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)
- \* **ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**  
(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(Most recently held by Lioness Asuka)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIKA KOMATSU**  
(July 10, 1988; from Yumi Ogura; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**YUMIKO HOTTA & MITSUKO NISHIWAKI**  
(July 18, 1989; from Akira Hokuto & Shizuka Minami; Tokyo, Japan)
- AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE**  
(December 13, 1988; from Ron Garvin; Chicago, IL)
- AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
(February 7, 1989; battle royal victory to fill vacant title; St. Paul, MN)
- \* **AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE DESTRUCTION CREW**  
(October 1, 1989; tournament final over Greg Gagne & Paul Diamond; Rochester, MN)
- AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER**  
(November 26, 1988; from Madusa Miceli; Bloomington, MN)
- \* **BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: BRUCE HART**  
(October 14, 1989; from Gama Singh; Lethbridge, Alberta)
- CONTINENTAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNIS CONDREY**  
(July 22, 1989; from Tom Prichard; Dothan, AL)
- CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JIMMY GOLDEN & BRIAN LEE**  
(August 26, 1989; from Steve Armstrong & Tracey Smothers; Dothan, AL)
- \* **CWA CHAMPION: DIRTY WHITE BOY**  
(October 2, 1989; tournament final over Dustin Rhodes; Memphis, TN)
- CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**  
(September 11, 1989; from Chris Champion & Mark Starr; Memphis, TN)
- ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS**  
(February 11, 1989; from Joe Savoldi; Presque Isle, ME)
- ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOE SAVOLDI & VIC STEAMBOAT**  
(July 1, 1989; from Phil Apollo & Eric Sbraccia; Marlboro, MA)
- IWGP CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER**  
(August 10, 1989; from Riki Choshu; Tokyo, Japan)
- IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MASSA SAITO & SHINYA HASHIMOTO RIKI CHOSHU & TAKAYUKI IIZUKI**  
(September 20, 1989; from Riki Choshu & Takayuki Iizuki; Osaka, Japan)
- IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NAOKI SANO**  
(August 10, 1989; from Jushin Riger; Tokyo, Japan)
- NWA TV CHAMPION: THE GREAT MUTA**  
(September 3, 1989; defeated Sting for held up title; Atlanta, GA)
- NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR**  
(May 7, 1989; from Rick Steamboat; Nashville, TN)
- NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN**  
(June 14, 1989; tournament final over Bobby Eaton & Stan Lane; Ft. Bragg, NC)
- \* **PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: SCOTTY THE BODY**  
(October 14, 1989; from Rex King; Portland, OR)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**REX KING & STEVE DOLL**  
(September 16, 1989; for held up title vs Scotty the Body & The Grappler; Portland, OR)
- \* **PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**  
(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)
- PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU**  
(July 22, 1989; from Stan Hansen & Genichiro Tenryu; Kanazawa, Japan)
- PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN**  
(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)
- \* **PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**JUMBO BERETTA & DENNIS KNIGHT**  
(October 17, 1989; from the Nasty Boys; Tampa, FL)
- STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: LARRY CAMERON**  
(April 28, 1989; from Davey Boy Smith; Calgary, Alberta)
- STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**THE BLACKHARTS**  
(September 29, 1989; from Sumo Hara & Benkai Sasaki; Calgary, Alberta)
- U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER**  
(May 22, 1989; from Michael Hayes; Bluefield, WV)
- USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**  
(December 13, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich; Chicago, IL)
- USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JEFF JARRETT & MATT BORNE**  
(September 29, 1989; from Sheik Braddock & Ron Starr; Dallas, TX)
- \* **USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: KERRY VON ERICH**  
(October 20, 1989; from The Punisher; Mesquite, TX)
- WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: RIP ROGERS**  
(May 14, 1989; from TNT; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- \* **WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**THE MERCENARIES**  
(October 7, 1989; from Miguel Perez Jr. & Hurricane Castillo Jr.; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)
- WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC**  
(July 29, 1989; from Chicky Starr; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: INVADER I**  
(April 15, 1989; from Abdullah the Butcher; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- \* **WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: INVADER I**  
(October 7, 1989; from Ivan Koloff; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)
- \* **WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS & MARK YOUNGBLOOD**  
(October 7, 1989; from Rip Rogers & Abuhaddien; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)
- \* **WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**  
(October 7, 1989; from Steve Strong; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)
- WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER**  
(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
(August 28, 1989; from Rick Rude; East Rutherford, NJ)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**  
(April 2, 1989; from Randy Savage; Atlantic City, NJ)
- \* **WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION**  
(October 2, 1989; from Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson; Wheeling, WV)
- WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN**  
(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)

# ***Blast From The Past***

## ***This Month In Wrestling History***

**“The Upset of the Decade”**



### **STAN STASIAK vs. PEDRO MORALES**

**December 1, 1973**

Almost nobody expected it to happen. When Stan “The Man” Stasiak locked up with Pedro Morales at the Philadelphia Arena, the Oregon native had already been turned back by the WWF World champion several times in arenas across the country. Imagine how shocked the fans were when Stasiak pinned the popular Puerto Rican star to win the title! Stasiak’s manager, The Grand Wizard (inset, with Stasiak), predicted that the heart punch specialist would hold the belt until he retired. Only nine days later, Bruno Sammartino defeated Stasiak at Madison Square Garden to begin his second title reign.



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### THE PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED "SKYFLYER"

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